FO
413

26

[This Document is the Property of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.]

*Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. April* 1897.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(6900.)

F.O.
413

F.O. 413/26

PART 14.

# FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

# AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

July to December 1896.

6

# TABLE OF CONTENTS.


| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 62 | July 1, 1896 | Robbery of Mr. Ehrenbach's property. Approves note to Grand Vizier .. .. | 1 |
| 2 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 81 | June 22, | M'zab disturbances. Despatch from Consul Maclean giving grounds on which claims of British merchants should be supported. Has told him to send list of all further claims. Proposes to act with colleagues having similar claims .. .. .. .. | 1 |
| 3 | To Colonial Office .. | .. | July 2, | Contraband trade with Moorish coast. Sends No. 200 of Part 13 .. .. .. | 4 |
| 4 | Marquess of Dufferin | 193 Confidential | June 29, | Admission of French goods across Algerian frontier. No confirmation of reported arrangement for free admission . .. | 5 |
| 5 | Conjoint Jewish Committee | .. | July 3, | Extension of Mellah at Mogador. Thanks for suggestion. Hope that a Rents Committee will be formed .. .. .. | 5 |
| 6 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 67 | 8, | Extension of Mellah at Mogador. Approves note to Grand Vizier, and sends copy of No. 5 .. .. .. .. | 5 |
| 7 | „ „ .. | 68 | 11, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 2). Claims cannot be formally presented .. .. | 6 |
| 8 | „ „ .. | 69 | 11, | M'zab disturbances. Messrs. Dehn and Heine. Sends copy of No. 204 of Part 13, and of No. 9 .. .. .. .. | 6 |
| 9 | To Messrs. Dehn and Heine | .. | 11, | M'zab disturbances. Informs of instructions . | 6 |
| 10 | Eastern Telegraph Company | .. | 14, | Concession for a coast cable. Propose to apply for, and ask for support .. .. | 7 |
| 11 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 82 Confidential | 3, | Moorish Mission. Conversation with M. de Moubel, who agrees that it should go, if at all, to both London and Paris .. .. | 7 |
| 12 | „ „ .. | 83 | 4, | Alleged attack on falucho "San José." Claim for compensation should not be pressed. Prosecution for smuggling could not be sustained .. .. .. .. | 8 |
| 13 | „ „ .. | 84 | 7, | Pier at Tangier. Being built of wood by engineer chosen by foreign Representatives | 8 |
| 14 | „ „ .. | 85 | 9, | Alleged attack on "San José." Certificate of registration has been cancelled. Presume matter should drop .. .. .. | 9 |
| 15 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 71 | 20, | Concession for coast cable. Sends No. 10 .. | 9 |
| 16 | Colonial Office .. | .. | 20, | Alleged attack on "San José." Despatch from Gibraltar. Ground of cancellation of British registration .. .. .. | 9 |
| 17 | To Colonial Office .. | .. | 21, | Alleged attack on "San José" (see No. 16). Sends No. 12 and 14 .. .. .. | 10 |
| 18 | To Messrs. Kingsford, Dorman, and Co. | .. | 21, | Pier at Tangier. Substance of No. 13 .. | 10 |
| 19 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 72 | 22, | Moorish Mission (see No. 11). Approves language. Authorizes him to receive any proposal for it to go on to London .. | 10 |
| 20 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 73 | July 22, 1896 | Alleged attack on "San José" (see Nos. 12 and 14). Approves steps, and agrees that matter should drop .. .. .. | 11 |
| 21 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 87 | 14, | Reported defection of Kaïd of M'tooga. Views of Consul Maclean and Kaïd Maclean. Arrest of Kaïd Radi of Oolad Zian .. | 11 |
| 22 | Colonial Office .. | .. | 28, | Alleged attack on "San José" (see No. 171). Agrees that matter should drop .. .. | 12 |
| 23 | „ „ .. | .. | 30, | Contraband trade with Moorish coast (see No. 3). No law under which copy of manifest could be demanded. Governor of Gibraltar adverse to a change .. .. | 12 |
| 24 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 92 | 26, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 8). Suggest that Messrs. Dehn and Heine be asked to state amount of debts due by Moors .. | 13 |
| 25 | „ „ .. | 93 | 26, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 7). His colleagues consider Government responsible and agree on simultaneous presentations of separate representations. Sends draft of his note to Vizier .. . | 13 |
| 26 | Question asked in the House of Commons (Mr Pease) | .. | Aug. 6, | Sale of slaves in sea-ports. Her Majesty's Minister has standing instructions on the subject, but will be told to report.. .. | 16 |
| 27 | To Messrs. Dehn and Heine | .. | 7, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 9). What amounts are due to them by Moors .. | 16 |
| 28 | Messrs. Dehn and Heine | .. | 8, | M'zab disturbances. Copy of statement of debts sent to Sir A. Nicolson. Sends additional statement .. .. .. | 16 |
| 29 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 93 A | July 31, | Concession for coast cable (see No. 15). No application has been made. Moment not opportune. Will try unofficially to secure refusal for Eastern Telegraph Company | 17 |
| 30 | „ „ .. | 94 | Aug. 4. | Trade at Cape Juby. Sends correspondence with Mr. Afriat, and letter to him under flying seal .. .. .. .. | 18 |
| 31 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 82 | 11, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 25). Approves note to Vizier .. .. .. | 19 |
| 32 | „ „ .. | 84 | 12, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 24). Sends No. 28 giving additional statement of debts | 19 |
| 33 | „ „ .. | 85 | 14, | Trade at Cape Juby (see No 30). Approves action. Letter sent on to Mr. Afriat .. | 20 |
| 34 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 95 | 6, | Tangier. Jetty tariff. Is approved by foreign Representatives and Moorish Government. Landing at jetty not obligatory .. .. | 20 |
| 34* | „ „ .. | 30 Tel. | 20, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 29). May he send in note? .. .. .. | 20* |
| 35 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 20 Tel. | 20, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 34*). Yes .. | 21 |
| 36 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 96 | 11, | Cid Mahommed Torres. Leave granted to him. Likely to be permanent. To be succeeded by Hadj Mahommed Lebady .. | 21 |
| 37 | „ „ .. | 97 | 11, | Saffi debts. Report by Consul Maclean, who proposes to go to Saffi later. Practice of collecting with aid of Government sanctioned by custom, but not based on Article X of General Treaty as Consul supposes .. | 22 |
| 38 | „ „ .. | 98 | 14, | Mining in Angera district. Mr. Bowden's wish to get a concession. Moment not opportune | 24 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 39 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 99 | Aug. 15, 1896 | Present situation in Morocco. Return of Governors to provinces. Their extortion to cover their expenses at Court. Sends article from "Réveil du Maroc" .. | 25 |
| 40 | " " .. | 100 | 17, | Disturbances near Tetuan. Hostilities between the Beni Housmar and the Benider. Report by Vice-Consul Bewicke .. .. | 26 |
| 41 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 88 | 24, | Concession for coast cable (see No. 29). Approves communication to Grand Vizier .. | 27 |
| 42 | To Eastern Telegraph Company | .. | 25, | Concession for coast cable (see No. 10). Substance of No. 29 .. .. .. | 27 |
| 43 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 102 | 20, | Affairs in Saffi district (see No. 37). Sends Report by Consul Maclean. Confirmation by Government of Kaïds chosen by rebels .. | 27 |
| 44 | " " .. | 103 | 25, | Alleged attack on "San José." Report by Vice-Consul Bewicke giving story of a Riff Shereef .. .. .. .. | 28 |
| 45 | To Mr. F. L. Bowden | .. | Sept. 2, | Mining in Angera (see No. 38). Moment not opportune for asking for concession .. | 30 |
| 46 | Memorandum by Mr. Oakes | .. | 5, | Collection of debts. History of insertion of Article X into General Treaty. Compulsion of debtors to come to a port enforceable in cases of debt contracted within both the British and Moorish dominions .. .. | 30 |
| 47 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 104 | 26, | Condition of Morocco. Italian Minister is sending M. Gentile over to Morocco City to report . .. .. .. | 32 |
| 48 | " " .. | 105 | 1, | Condition of Morocco. M. Gentile finds road between Casablanca and Rabat unsafe, and country between Tangier and Laraiche practically under French protection .. | 32 |
| 49 | " " .. | 106 | 2, | Trade at Cape Juby (see No. 30). Sends copy of his application to Grand Vizier for Messrs. Afriat to open a trading establishment | 32 |
| 50 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 91 | 14, | Saffi debts (see No. 37). Approves of Consul Maclean proceeding to Saffi. Sends copy of Memorandum (see No. 46) .. .. | 33 |
| 51 | " " .. | 92 | 15, | Trade at Cape Juby (see No. 49). Approves | 33 |
| 52 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 107 Confidential | 12, | French intrigues. Distribution through French Legation of Arabic pamphlets praising treatment of Mahommedans under French rule and abusing British dominion in Egypt. French desire to get control of Moorish foreign affairs .. .. .. | 33 |
| 53 | Eastern Telegraph Company | .. | 17, | Concession for coast cable (see No. 42). Thanks for information .. .. | 34 |
| 54 | Mr. Ashplant .. | .. | 19, | Trade at Cape Juby. Explains his previous application for land .. .. .. | 34 |
| 55 | To Mr. Ashplant .. | .. | 22, | Trade at Cape Juby (see No. 54). Explanation will be conveyed to Legation .. .. | 35 |
| 56 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 94, | 23, | Trade at Cape Juby. Sends No. 54 .. | 35 |
| 57 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 108 | 18, | Mr. Ehrenbach's case. Orders sent to Governor of Tetuan to pay 150*l*. .. | 35 |





| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 58 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 109 | Sept. 19, 1896 | Extension of the Mellah at Mogador. Adoption of system of ground rents regarded with suspicion by Vizier, who proposes to revert to original settlement. Has made counter-proposal for a building to be erected by authorities who would receive 6 per cent. .. | 36 |
| 59 | " " .. | 110 Confidential | 19, | Tuat and Tafilet. Account of journey, through, from Timbuctoo to Tangier. Absence of Shereefian authority. French advance .. .. .. .. | 37 |
| 60 | " " .. | 111 Confidential | 21, | Tuat. Conversation with Spanish Minister as to views of Spanish Government, on probable French occupation. M. de Ojéda's views as to a Spanish occupation of Tetuan | 38 |
| 61 | To Mr. Ehrenbach .. | .. | Oct. 6, | Mr. Ehrenbach's case (see No. 57). Inform of order for payment of 150*l*. .. .. | 39 |
| 62 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 31 Tel. | 7, | Tuat. Question revived by French. Moors will appeal to Powers to settle question by arbitration .. .. .. | 39 |
| 63 | " " .. | 32 Tel. | 7, | Tuat (see No. 62). Confirmation of above by Spanish Minister, who also reports Moorish threat of resistance .. | 39 |
| 64 | Mr. Ehrenbach .. | .. | 7, | Mr. Ehrenbach's case (see No. 61). Thanks.. | 40 |
| 65 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 33 Tel. | 9, | Piracy on Riff coast. Attack on French sailing-vessel. Repulse of Spanish steamer .. | 40 |
| 66 | " " .. | 112 | Sept. 30, | Trade at Cape Juby (see No. 56). Sends under flying seal letter to Vizier in favour of Mr. Ashplant. Export of sheep and horses prohibited .. .. .. .. | 40 |
| 67 | To Mr. Ashplant .. | .. | Oct. 13, | Trade at Cape Juby (see No. 55). Sends inclosure in above, and informs as to export of sheep, &c. . .. .. .. .. | 41 |
| 68 | To Mr. L. Emanuel .. | Confidential | 14, | Extension of the Mellah at Mogador (see No. 5). Informs of Moorish proposal (see No. 59), and to Sir A. Nicolson's counter-proposal .. .. .. | 41 |
| 69 | Consul Finn .. | 1 | 9, | Piracy on Riff coast (see No. 65). Account by Spanish steamer "Sevilla" of attack on French ship "Propercorin" .. .. | 41 |
| 70 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 113 Confidential | 7, | Tuat. Digging of wells near Timmimoun (see No. 62). Claim to Tuat by French. Moorish reply .. .. | 42 |
| 71 | " " .. | 114 Confidential | 7, | Tuat (see No. 63). Spanish Minister's version of dispute and correspondence .. .. | 42 |
| 72 | " " .. | 115 | 9, | Piracy on Riff coast (see No. 69). Information on incident furnished by Spanish Minister .. | 43 |
| 73 | Sir G. Bonham .. | 230 | 14, | Piracy on Riff coast. France and Spain will claim indemnities . .. .. | 43 |
| 74 | Conjoint Jewish Committee | .. | 16, | Extension of the Mellah at Mogador (see No. 68). Thanks for action .. .. | 44 |
| 75 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 116 | 12, | Ex-Grand Vizier Elmati Jamai. Death in prison at Tetuan .. .. .. | 44 |
| 76 | To Sir A. Nicolson . | 100 | 21, | Extension of the Mellah at Mogador (see No. 58). Approves action. Sends No. 74 | 44 |
| 77 | Mr. H. Gurney .. | .. | 22, | Sale of slaves in coast towns. Refers to No. 26. Asks for information .. .. | 45 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 78 | Mr. H. D. Thrackrah .. | .. | Oct. 23, 1896 | Piracy on Riff coast. "Joven Enrique." Asks for information .. .. .. | 45 |
| 79 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 117 | 14, | Piracy on Riff coast (see No. 72). France has asked Spain to exchange a prisoner for captive French captain .. . .. | 46 |
| 80 | „ „ .. | 118 | 17, | Mr. Ehrenbach's case (see No. 57). Payment made to guide and muleteer. Sends cheque for balance .. .. .. .. | 46 |
| 81 | „ „ .. | 119 | 18, | Piracy on Riff coast (see No. 79). Arrival of French man-of-war. Difficulty as to exchange of prisoner .. .. .. | 47 |
| 82 | Messrs. Dehn and Heine | .. | 26, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 27). Sends extracts from "Manchester Guardian," respecting Moorish circular promising payment of European claims .. .. | 47 |
| 83 | To Mr. Ehrenbach .. | .. | 28, | Mr. Ehrenbach's case (see No. 61). Informs of distribution of indemnity as stated in No. 80. Sends cheque .. | 48 |
| 84 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 120 | 21, | Suppressed Spanish newspaper "Conciencia Libre." Spanish Minister requests prohibition of sale by British subjects. Submits case for consideration .. .. .. | 48 |
| 85 | „ „ .. | 121 | 22, | Piracy on Riff coast. "Joven Enrique" (see No. 78). Statement by Gomez, the master. Said to have been by Tosso of Tetuan. Suspicious circumstances .. | 50 |
| 86 | Mr. Ehrenbach .. | .. | 29, | Mr. Ehrenbach's case (see No. 83). Thanks | 50 |
| 87 | To Messrs. Dehn and Heine | .. | 30, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 82). No such report of issue of circular received .. | 51 |
| 88 | To Mr. Thrackrah .. | .. | 30, | Piracy on Riff coast. "Joven Enrique" (see No. 78). Substance of No. 85 .. .. | 51 |
| 89 | To Mr. H. Gurney .. | .. | 31, | Sale of slaves in coast towns (see No. 77). His communication will be sent to Minister at Tangier .. . .. | 51 |
| 90 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 122 | 24, | Piracy on Riff coast (see No. 81). Unconditional release of French captain. Spanish authorities unlikely to treat their prisoners with leniency as suggested by French Legation .. .. .. .. | 52 |
| 91 | „ „ .. | 123 | 24, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 25). Note from Vizier. Moorish Government seem not disinclined to make some compensation .. | 52 |
| 92 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 105 | Nov. 3, | Sale of slaves at coast towns. Sends No. 77 for observations .. .. .. | 53 |
| 93 | „ „ .. | 106 | 3, | Mr. Ehrenbach's case (see No. 80). Sends No. 86 .. .. .. | 53 |
| 94 | British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society | .. | 3, | Sale of slaves at coast towns. Urge immediate steps to prevent, and the conclusion of Treaty abolishing Slave Trade throughout Moorish dominions .. .. .. .. | 53 |
| 95 | To British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society | .. | 7, | Sale of slaves at coast towns. Minister at Tangier already told to report .. .. | 54 |
| 96 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 110 | 9, | Suppressed Spanish newspaper (see No. 84). Order in Council has reference to "peace and order" of Morocco, not of Spain. To inform Spanish Minister of inability to assist him .. .. .. .. | 54 |





| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 97 | Sir A. Nicolson . | 125 | Oct. 30, 1896 | Murder of Herr Rockstrohe. Arrival of prisoners at Saffi, and result of trial .. | 54 |
| 98 | „ „ .. | 126 | 31, | Algerian frontier claims. Settled for sum of 120,000 dollars .. .. .. | 56 |
| 99 | „ „ .. | 127 | 31, | Piracy on Riff coast. Exaggerated report as to French claim for indemnity .. .. | 56 |
| 100 | „ „ .. | 128 | Nov. 4, | Trade at Cape Juby (see No. 49). Vizier's evasive reply to Messrs. Afriat's application | 56 |
| 101 | „ „ .. | 129 | 5, | Extension of the Mellah at Mogador (see No. 58). Reply of Vizier, who will not yield. Will consult colleagues .. .. | 57 |
| 102 | „ „ .. | 34 Tel. | 20, | Tuat (see No. 62). French reply is vague, and ignores proposal for arbitration .. | 58 |
| 103 | To Jewish Conjoint Foreign Committee | .. | 24, | Extension of the Mellah at Mogador (see No. 68). Substance of No. 101 .. .. | 58 |
| 104 | To Messrs. Afriat and Co. | .. | 24, | Trade at Cape Juby (see No. 49). Substance of No. 100. Vizier's evasive reply .. | 58 |
| 105 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 130 | 12, | Sale of slaves at coast towns (see No. 96). Doubts success of a representation .. | 59 |
| 106 | „ „ .. | 131 | 12, | Man-of-war for Morocco (see No. 48). M. Gentile's mission chiefly concerned with difficulty as to man-of-war made in Italy .. | 59 |
| 107 | Consul-General Haggard | 88 | 19, | Tuat (see No. 102). Murder of Lieutenant Collot. Views of French and Tunisian press on necessity of its occupation and of appointment of Consuls at Ghadamès and Rhat. Creation of police post at Nefta .. | 60 |
| 108 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 132 | 19, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 82). No actual pledge yet given by Moorish Government for compensation .. .. .. | 61 |
| 109 | „ „ .. | 133 | 20, | Tuat (see No. 70). French reply. Extends No. 102 .. .. .. .. | 62 |
| 110 | „ „ .. | 134 | 21, | Globe Venture Syndicate. Reports of opening trade in Sûs and Wad Nun districts .. | 62 |
| 111 | „ „ .. | 135 | 23, | Tuat (see No. 109). French reply, suggested Moorish withdrawal from Timmimoun. Spanish Minister thinks that Moors would be wise to insist on definite reply.. .. | 62 |
| 112 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 117 | Dec. 2, | Globe Venture Syndicate (see No. 110). Sends papers respecting. Messrs. Perry and Honig told that Dr. Abdul Karim is an impostor .. | 63 |
| 113 | To Messrs. Dehn and Heine | .. | 3, | M'zab disturbances (see No. 82). No actual pledge of compensation given. Substance of No. 108 .. .. .. .. | 63 |
| 114 | Colonial Office .. | .. | 8, | Piracy on Riff coast. "Joven Enrique" (see No. 85). Petition for redress. Suggest that pirate who was recognized should be prosecuted before a claim is made against Moorish Government .. .. | 63 |
| 115 | Memorandum by Mr. Oakes | .. | 12, | Piracy on Riff coast. "Joven Enrique." Case should be prosecuted in native not in Consular Court .. .. .. .. | 67 |
| 116 | Sir E. Monson .. | 226 Africa | 12, | Tuat. Murder of Lieutenant Collot. Extract from "Figaro." Detachment of Colonel Didier's force said to be in occupation of the oasis .. .. .. .. | 69 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 117 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 136 | Nov. 26, 1896 | Piracy on Riff coast. "Joven Enrique" (see No. 114). Sends statement by master and Report by Vice-Consul at Tetuan .. | 70 |
| 118 | „ „ .. | 138 | Dec. 3, | Piracy on Riff coast. Conversation with Hadj Mohamed Lebady .. .. | 72 |
| 119 | To Board of Trade .. | .. | 16, | Drowning of two men of "Gallina." Her Majesty's Minister is to report . .. | 73 |
| 120 | To Colonial Office .. | .. | 19, | Piracy on Riff coast (see No. 114). Suggests no reference being made to Moorish Government. Sends No. 117 .. .. | 73 |
| 121 | Sir A. Nicolson . | 139 | 10, | Saffi debts (see No. 37). Consul Maclean finds that orders to send down debtors to Saffi have not been executed. Has addressed a further communication to Vizier .. .. | 73 |
| 122 | „ „ .. | 140 | 14, | Sale of slaves in public (see No. 105). Sales stopped by Vice-Consuls at Laraiche and Saffi. Authorities receive percentage from buyers and sellers on private sales .. | 74 |
| 123 | „ „ .. | 141 Confidential | 14, | Globe Venture Syndicate (see No. 112). Inquiry by Austrian Minister. Telegraphic correspondence between Berlin and Tangier. Rumoured landing of Europeans at Wad Nun district .. .. .. .. | 74 |
| 124 | „ „ .. | 143 | 17, | Murder of Herr Haessner. German Minister thinks that his assailants were Moors. More probably Spaniards .. .. | 75 |
| 125 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 123 | 30, | Saffi debts (see No. 121). Approves proceedings .. .. .. .. | 76 |


*Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. January* 1897.

CONFIDENTIAL.

# Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

## Part 14.

No. 1.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 62.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 1, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 78 of the 17th instant relative to the robbery of Mr. Ehrenbach's property.

I approve the note which you addressed to the Grand Vizier on the 17th instant, claiming 150*l.* compensation in settlement of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 2.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received July* 2.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 22, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 77 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean in regard to the recent disturbances in the M'zab district. I have requested Mr. Maclean to forward a list of all further claims which British subjects or British-protected persons may wish to present in connection with these troubles, and I would propose, with your Lordship's concurrence, to act in conjunction with my French, Spanish, and German colleagues, who will have similar claims arising out of the pillage of the Kasbah. It seems to me that the Government should in this instance be made responsible for the losses which British merchants may have suffered. The refusal of the Acting Governor to allow notarial evidence to be taken as to the amount of damage and loss incurred will, I submit, bar the Moorish Government from raising any question as to the validity of the claims presented. At the same time, I will instruct Mr. Consul Maclean to take what steps he can to verify the accuracy of the statements made to him on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

*Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.*

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, June* 19, 1896.

IN my despatch of the 13th instant I gave your Excellency a description, gathered from statements of eye-witnesses, of the pillaging and destruction of houses in the Kasbah of M'zab, and I mentioned at the same time that there were British interests seriously affected.

It is with the greatest regret that I realize that responsibility for the losses to British merchants lies at the door of the Moorish Government.

I have received from Messrs. Lamb Brothers and from Mr. Fernau respectively letters containing statements of their book debts in M'zab owing by men who have lost their houses, shops, stocks, documents, securities, and books, and are left absolutely destitute. These men are under Moorish jurisdiction, and have little or no hope of receiving justice at the hands of the Moorish Government.

There is no doubt in my mind that the British merchants concerned will lose all the money involved unless your Excellency would feel justified in claiming compensation on their behalf from the Moorish Government.

They contend that their claims for compensation rests on a good foundation, as they have for many years transacted business with the individuals named on the lists, and have had no difficulty in recovering moneys from them. The credit given has been justified by the debtors' possession of houses, shops, and business-stands in M'zab, and they have proved their business to be sound. At one stroke all these securities have vanished, and the debtors themselves barely escaped with their lives. The condition of affairs has arisen through the action of the Moorish Government, owing to their not having taken adequate measures to preserve order until a new Governor had become strong enough to exercise authority.

Previous to the attempted arrest of the Acting Governor, the inhabitants of the Kasbah of M'zab were recovering from the effects of the disturbances which followed on the late Sultan's death. For months the Kaïd of M'zab, an exceedingly cruel and severe man, had bravely defended his Kasbah, in the name of the Government, against the hordes of rebels who were constantly besieging him. His spirited defence is believed to have saved the whole of the other Governors of Shawia from destruction. If he had been defeated, their respective strongholds would have fallen too.

The Sultan's march to Morocco city put an end, for the time being, to the disturbances, and business in M'zab had settled down into its ordinary grooves. There was no cause to fear a revolution or reason for taking extra precautions. Normal security reigned, and would not have been disturbed but for the attempt to arrest the Acting Governor with an inadequate force to preserve order.

That is the merchants' claim for support from your Excellency. Put briefly: As all the debtors' possessions have been stolen or destroyed through the action of the Moorish Government, therefore the Moorish Government becomes their debtor.

Notwithstanding that the facts of the pillaging and destruction of all the houses in M'zab are notorious, I have endeavoured to obtain statements of eye-witnesses written down by Moorish notaries. Unfortunately, the Acting Governor of Dar-al-Baida refuses to allow the Kadi or Adoolo to take down statements which might prove a responsibility rested on the Moorish Government.

I inclose copy and translation of my request to him, and of his reply.

The claims put forward by the merchants have not yet been thoroughly examined by me, and I am informed there are more claimants yet to come forward. One of these is a British semsar, who owns a great deal of house property and several shops, besides a synagogue. He also had to pay a large sum of money to ransom his daughter, a young Jewess. Many of the refugees are still missing, and several of the Jewesses who were seized are, after being ransomed, awaiting garments to be taken to them before they can come into town.

I am given to understand that certain of my colleagues are sending in claims, arising from the same occurrence, to their respective Ministers.

I am in hopes that the Moorish Government will propose to send a Commissioner with power to arrange settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

---



Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

*Messrs. Lamb Brothers to Consul Maclean.*

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, June* 18, 1896.

WE have the honour to append a list of the amounts owing to us by debtors in M'zab who have been ruined by the late events there:—

| | Dol. | c. |
|---|---|---|
| Abraham Menyal .. .. .. .. .. .. | 2,558 | 78 |
| Ishak Benshimol .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1,149 | 79 |
| Meir Wold Sammo .. .. .. .. .. .. | 546 | 05 |
| Abraham-ben-Striss .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1,025 | 02 |
| Sliman Levy .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 335 | 30 |
| Saleh-ben-Sharky .. .. .. .. .. .. | 735 | 14 |

These sums are all owing for goods supplied. The above-mentioned debtors have not yet arrived in town; but so far as we can gather any news of them, we understand that they have been left absolutely destitute. Whatever property they had has been stolen from them, and their houses and shops pulled down.

Under these circumstances, we see no possibility of our ever recovering our money from them, and can therefore only appeal to you to lay the matter before Her Majesty's Minister in Tangier, in the hope that he will support a claim for compensation from the Moorish Government.

Hoping that you will grant us your personal support, we remain, &c.
(Signed) LAMB BROTHERS.

P.S.—We take this opportunity of mentioning that, in addition to the sums we have mentioned, we have a claim for goods supplied to Messrs. Rodriguez Hermanos for 1,708 dol. 20 c.; but as they are Spanish subjects, they will themselves claim through their Government.

L. B.

---

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

*Mr. Fernau to Consul Macleau.*

Sir, *Casablanca, June* 18, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a list of balances due to me according to my books, which I hold at your disposal for inspection, by clients or employés of mine whose trade was carried on at the Kasbah of M'zab. All these men had personal property, houses, or shops at the Kasbah, and, from the information I have been able to obtain, they are now utterly destitute, owing to the events which have recently taken place in M'zab. The total due to me amounts to 7,691 dol. 20 c., and I see no remedy but an appeal to the Moorish Government for redress. I therefore trust that you will kindly lay the matter before Her Majesty's Minister, and I earnestly hope that you will give your support to my claim for compensation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FERNAU.

---

Inclosure 4 in No. 2.

LIST of Debtors at the M'Zab Kasbah.

| | Dol. | c. |
|---|---|---|
| For purchases of produce— | | |
| David-ben-Malka .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1,029 | 45 |
| Yamin Bohbot.. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 14 | 75 |
| Isaac Corcos .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 360 | 00 |
| Mushy-ben-Baroch .. .. .. .. .. .. | 526 | 35 |
| Abraham Jawy . .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1,420 | 00 |
| To the goods store— | | |
| Abraham-ben-Mugel and Abraham Bohbot .. .. .. .. | 1,051 | 75 |
| Hazzan Haim Pilo .. .. .. .. .. .. | 542 | 65 |
| Abraham Jawy.. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 925 | 00 |
| Hazzan Shalom-el-Baz .. .. .. .. .. .. | 213 | 65 |
| Abraham Pilo .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 320 | 15 |
| Samuel Dahan .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 267 | 45 |
| To the shop— | | |
| Samuel Dahan .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 800 | 00 |
| Joseph-ben-Ammar .. .. .. .. .. .. | 220 | 00 |
| | 7,691 | 20 |

---

Inclosure 5 in No. 2.

*Consul Maclean to the Acting Governor of Dar-al-Baida.*

(After compliments.) *Dar-al-Baida, June* 18, 1896.

I HAVE to request you, my friend, to direct the proper officers to take down the statements of certain eye-witnesses of what occurred recently at the Kasbah of M'zab, in order that their evidence of the details of the occurrence may be recorded in Moorish notarial documents. Several British merchants have suffered severe losses on account of the wrecking and pillaging of the Mellah and Moorish quarters of the Kasbah. These losses, as far as I can judge at present, will amount to the value of upwards of 20,000 dollars.

It is possible compensation will be asked for these British interests from your Government; hence it is all-important that proofs should be forthcoming while evidence is fresh.

I therefore ask your assistance in the matter, and would point out that the advantage of proof is as important to your Government as to mine.

Mr. Fernau has surprised me with the information that you absolutely refuse to allow the Adoolo to take down the statements of eye-witnesses in the matter.

I can hardly credit this, as you would be rendering yourself liable to be held responsible for the want of evidence which might lead to claims being justified.

I beg of you to reply to this letter immediately, as the witnesses alluded to are waiting, and wish to be allowed to proceed on their own affairs.

Peace.

(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

---

Inclosure 6 in No. 2.

*The Acting Governor of Dar-al-Baida to Consul Maclean.*

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 7 *Moharrem*, 1314 (*June* 18, 1896).

WE received your letter concerning Mr. Fernau's request to make a "beena" of what was lost in the Kasbah, M'zab. You know that the opening of this door is very harmful to the Government, because people are not all the same, and therefore we will not grant it until we get an order from the Government.

Peace.

(Signed by Acting Governor.)

---

No. 3.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 2, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, inclosing a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan relative to the contraband trade with the Moorish coast.*

Lord Salisbury would be glad to receive Mr. Secretary Chamberlain's observations on Mr. Bewicke's suggestions for the prevention of the traffic in quarters.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

---

* See Part 13, No. 200.



No. 4.

*The Marquess of Dufferin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July* 4.)

(No. 193. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, June* 29, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 185, Confidential, of the 29th ultimo, respecting an alleged arrangement for the free admission of French goods into Morocco across the Algerian frontier, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have caused careful inquiries to be made, but cannot learn that there is any foundation for the report.

As your Lordship is aware, by the Law of the 16th July, 1867, regulating the commercial régime of Algeria, goods produced or manufactured in Morocco are admitted free of duty into Algeria if imported by the land frontier; but this privilege is not reciprocal, and goods imported into Morocco from Algeria nominally pay an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent.

I am informed, however, that no custom-house exists on the land frontier between Algeria and Morocco except at Oujda, and this place is habitually avoided by the merchants, who smuggle their goods across the frontier by other routes.

With regard to the statement by the Spanish Vice-Consul at Nemours, referred to in Mr. White's despatch No. 43, Confidential, of the 18th April last, I can find no trace in the proceedings of the French Chambers of the Resolution or Decree to which he refers, and I understand that the Spanish Embassy in Paris appear to have no knowledge of any of the circumstances referred to in the correspondence transmitted to me by your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(For the Ambassador),

(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

---

No. 5.

*Conjoint Jewish Committee to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July* 4.)

My Lord, 36, *Finsbury Circus, London, July* 3, 1896.

AT a meeting of the Conjoint Foreign Committee held on Wednesday last, I had the honour to submit your Lordship's letter of the 22nd ultimo relating to the Mellah at Mogador. The Committee desire me to convey to your Lordship their best thanks for Sir Arthur Nicolson's further suggestion in which they entirely concur; but they wish, at the same time, to express the hope that Sir Arthur Nicolson's former proposal for the formation of a Rents Committee, to be composed of Christians and Hebrews, will still be carried out, as they regard that scheme as of the greatest possible value.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LEWIS EMANUEL,
*Solicitor and Secretary.*

---

No. 6.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 67.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 8, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 72 of the 4th ultimo respecting the extension of the Mellah at Mogador.

I approve the terms of the note which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier on the subject, and I transmit to you, for your information, copy of a letter from the Conjoint Jewish Committee,* to whom your above-mentioned despatch was communicated.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

* No. 5.

No. 7.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 68.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1896.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 81 of the 22nd ultimo respecting the losses sustained by British subjects in connection with the recent disturbances in the M'zab district.

I am of opinion that, from the point of view of international law, the fact that the Moorish subjects, whose property has been destroyed, were indebted at the time of its destruction to certain British subjects on a balance of their trading accounts affords no sufficient ground to justify Her Majesty's Government in formally presenting these claims to the Government of Morocco through the diplomatic channel.

It appears to me that the action of Her Majesty's Legation cannot properly go beyond unofficially recommending the claims of Moorish subjects in respect of the destruction of their property to the earnest and careful consideration of the Moorish Government, on the ground that British merchants who are creditors of such Moorish subjects are indirectly affected by the losses of the latter.

Out of any moneys which may be awarded as compensation by the Moorish Government to the persons injured, the British merchants can then claim to be paid their debts on an equal footing with other creditors similarly circumstanced.

I have to request you to be guided in your action by the above considerations; but I would add that British subjects will, of course, be entitled in any case to obtain as favourable treatment for their claims as is accorded to the subjects of other nations in the like circumstances.

I shall be glad if you will report further as to the steps taken in regard to this matter by the other Representatives at Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 8.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 69.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1896.

WITH reference to my previous despatch No. 68 of this date, I transmit to you herewith copy of a letter which has been received from Messrs. Dehn and Heine* respecting the indirect losses sustained by British merchants in consequence of the recent disturbances at M'zab, together with a copy of the reply which has been returned.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 9.

*Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.*

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo respecting the indirect losses sustained by British merchants in consequence of the recent disturbances at M'zab, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that your letter has been forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, with instructions to afford such support to the claims in which British subjects are interested as he may consider the circumstances to warrant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

---

* See Part 13, No. 204.

† No. 9.



No. 10.

*Eastern Telegraph Company to Foreign Office.—(Received July* 15.)

*Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London,*

Sir, *July* 14, 1896.

IN consequence of a paragraph which appeared in the London "Globe" newspaper of the 3rd June, stating that "although the Eastern Telegraph cable is to be extended from Tangier to Mogador, the Sultan's Ministers resolutely forbid any communication being established with the interior," we communicated with our Superintendent at Gibraltar, who brought the paragraph to the notice of Sir A. Nicolson, the British Minister at Tangier, who, however, stated that there is no truth in the statement.

We believe the subject of a cable was mooted by him when at Morocco city, and he inquired if there was any truth in the rumour that the Spanish Government had asked for a Concession. The reply was in the negative, and the Morocco Government stated that they had no present intention of granting any one a Concession for cables on the coast. We are further advised, however, that the French engineer in the Morocco city has been negotiating for a Concession to lay a cable from Tangier and other coast towns to some point on French territory—possibly Oran or Algiers; but, so far as can be ascertained, there is no reason to think that the French Government are directly interested in it.

The latest information we have from Mazagan is that up to the present the Moorish Government has not granted any Concession for a coast cable. We are informed, however, that a French Company intend making an application for a Concession. Under these circumstances, we consider it advisable to apply for a Concession to lay these cables ourselves. Before doing so, however, we shall be glad to know if Her Majesty's Government can see their way to instruct their Minister at Tangier to support our application to the Morocco Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. DENISON PENDER,
*Managing Director.*

---

No. 11.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July* 17.)

(No. 82. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 3, 1896.

THE French Minister called on me this morning and inquired if there was any truth in a report which had reached him, that the Moorish Government contemplated sending an Embassy to London.

I told M. de Moubel that, while at the Court, the Grand Vizier had intimated to me a desire on the part of the Moorish Government to send a complimentary Mission to London, as many years had elapsed since a similar act of courtesy had been performed. I added that I would frankly confess that I had been a little embarrassed by the intimation, as I was, in the first place, unaware how my Government would view the proposal, and, also, I was afraid that the dispatch of a Moorish Mission would give rise to surmises and suspicions which, to my mind, it was very undesirable to evoke. It seemed to me necessary to keep matters as quiet as possible in this country, as I was sure that both he and I would be carrying out the wishes of our Governments in so doing. I had, therefore, told the Grand Vizier that the season would be far advanced before a Moorish Mission could arrive in London, and that it would be preferable to postpone the visit at any rate for this year. There the matter had rested.

M. de Moubel thanked me for my statement, as he would not disguise from me that the dispatch of a Mission to London alone would give rise to suspicion, and cause a feeling of jealousy. He now wished to inform me that he had himself been recently sounded from the Court as to whether a Mission to Paris would be welcome, and for exactly similar reasons to those I had related he had replied vaguely, and had communicated with his Government. He thought if the Mission visited both Paris and London there would be no objection; but that he was as much opposed to it confining its visit to the one as to the other capital.

M. de Moubel has not yet heard from his Government; but I should be glad to know, in case the latter favourably views the proposal of a Mission to Paris, whether your Lordship would be of opinion that I should place no obstacles in the way of its visiting London also.

I have not touched on the subject with the Moorish Government since I last spoke to the Vizier, so that the question is still a perfectly open one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 12.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)*

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 4, 1896.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 57 of the 12th June, transmitting correspondence in original relative to the alleged attack on the falucho "San José," off the Riff coast, on the 28th March last.

I have gone through the documents with Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, whom, with your Lordship's permission, I called from Tetuan for the purpose. It seems to me that the only means of obtaining any further information in regard to what actually occurred is to endeavour to procure a statement from the man Omar Ben Mohammed Ben Hamed, who appears to have been present and to have acted as interpreter. I have requested Mr. Bewicke to endeavour to elicit from this man some statement on the subject, though it is possible that he may be reluctant to give one. An inquiry on the spot would be out of the question, as an examination of any of the Riffians in the neighbourhood, even if feasible, would in all probability merely lead to a tissue of misleading and inaccurate statements.

I would venture to express my concurrence in paragraph 6 of the Governor of Gibraltar's despatch of the 14th May last to the Secretary of State for the Colonies; and to submit that a claim for compensation can, in the circumstances, hardly be pressed on the Moorish Government. I would wish also to state that I have had my attention called to the question of a prosecution being instituted against the owner of the vessel for engaging in a contraband trade. I doubt, if a prosecution were ordered, whether beyond the evidence of the lighterman mentioned in Boarding Officer Undery's report we should be able to induce any other witnesses to come forward, and I would submit whether it would not be more advisable to leave the matter of a prosecution alone.

There is only one point which to my mind appears to indicate that the crew were in difficulties and that some attack upon them was actually made, and that is the statement in Mr. Bewicke's despatch No. 17 of the 18th April last, that the man Omar-ben-Hamed is reported to have "interfered on behalf the crew." But, as Sir R. Biddulph remarks, this is not material, as, if the vessel were off the Riff coast for an illicit purpose, the claim for compensation could scarcely hold good.

I would suggest that the results of the inquiries which Mr. Bewicke will endeavour to make of Omar-ben-Hamed and of the Jew trader be awaited before any final decision is taken. Moreover, there is a point at present under inquiry as to the registration of the "San José" as a British vessel, and this is a question which it is of importance to elucidate.

I propose to address your Lordship a further despatch on the subject, and, in the meantime, beg leave to return the documents which your Lordship was good enough to send me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 13.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)*

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 7, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 61 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the pier about to be made at Tangier is a wooden one, and is constructed for the Moorish Government by an engineer selected by the foreign Representatives. The engineer who has been chosen is a British subject, and it is expected that the works will commence within a short period.



I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 14.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)*

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 9, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 83 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to state that I have been informed that the certificate of registry of the "San José" has been cancelled owing to irregularities in the registration. In these circumstances, I presume your Lordship would wish the matter of the alleged piratical attack upon her to drop, as the vessel is no longer a British ship, and at the time of the occurrence had been wrongly registered as such.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 15.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 71.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 20, 1896.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a letter which has been received from the Eastern Telegraph Company,* stating the circumstances under which they consider it advisable to apply to the Moorish Government for the grant of a Concession for a cable on the coast of Morocco, and requesting the support of Her Majesty's Government.

I request that you will furnish me with your opinion on the expediency of such an application and the prospect of success.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 16.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 21.)*

Sir, *Downing Street, July 20, 1896.*

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, with reference to the letter from this Department of the 1st June last, a copy of a despatch from Gibraltar on the subject of the registration of the falucho "San José."

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

---

Inclosure in No. 16.

*Deputy Governor Richardson to Mr. Chamberlain.*

Sir, *Gibraltar, July 8, 1896.*

WITH reference to Sir R. Biddulph's despatch of the 14th May last relative to a claim put forward on behalf of the registered British falucho "San José" in connection with an alleged attack made on her by Riff Moors in March last, I have the honour to inform you that a question having arisen as to the true ownership of this vessel inquiries have been made, with the following result:—

* No. 10.

2. The "San José" was registered as a British vessel on her reputed owner, a British subject, making a sworn Declaration before a Magistrate in September last that he was the sole owner. He has now admitted that he parted with one-third of his interest in her to one, Abraham Israel, a Tetuan Jew, not a British subject, and therefore not qualified to own a British ship, and on his voluntarily producing a press copy of the Memorandum of Sale, it has been found to be dated in July 1895. It appears, therefore, that she was not entitled to be registered as a British vessel, and her certificate will be accordingly cancelled.

3. It further appears that at the time of the alleged attack she was improperly registered, her registration having been obtained by means of a false affidavit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN B. RICHARDSON,
*Major-General.*

---

No. 17.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 21, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th instant relating to the alleged attack on the falucho "San José" off the Riff coast of Morocco, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, the accompanying copies of despatches which have been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* reporting that the certificate of registry of the "San José" has been cancelled.

Sir A. Nicolson suggests that, as the vessel in question is no longer a British ship, and at the time of the occurrence had been wrongly registered as such, the matter should now be allowed to drop.

I am to request that you will state to Mr. Chamberlain that, under the circumstances, Lord Salisbury is disposed to concur in Sir Arthur Nicolson's opinion.

The inclosures which accompanied your letter of the 1st June are returned herewith.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

---

No. 18.

*Foreign Office to Messrs. Kingsford, Dorman, and Co.*

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, July* 21, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd June last, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,† stating that the pier about to be made at that place is a wooden one, and will be constructed for the Moorish Government by an engineer selected by the foreign Representatives.

Sir A. Nicolson adds that the engineer who has been chosen is a British subject, and it is expected that the works will commence within a short period.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

---

No. 19.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 72.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 22, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 82, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, reporting your conversation with the French Minister at Tangier on the subject of a Moorish Mission to Paris and London.

I approve the language held by you to M. de Moubel on that occasion, and I have

* Nos. 12 and 14. † No. 13.



to inform you that, if it is decided that the projected Embassy from the Moorish Government is to visit Paris, you are authorized to receive favourably any proposals that it should also proceed to London.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 20.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 73.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 22, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 83 and 85 relative to the alleged attack on the falucho "San José" off the Riff coast of Morocco.

I approve the steps you have taken with regard to the case, and I concur in your suggestion that, as the certificate of registry of the "San José" has been cancelled owing to irregularities in the registration, and as the vessel was at the time of the occurrence wrongly registered as a British ship, the matter should now be allowed to drop.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 21.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July* 27.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 14, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean relative to the reported defection of the Kaïd of M'tooga, and to his having taken the field against the Government. From information which I have received from the Court it would appear that the Vizier has been for some time past endeavouring to depose the Kaïd, and to previously extort from him as much money as was possible. With this view petitions were procured from some men of the tribe of M'tooga asking for a new Governor, but the latter assured the Sultan that these petitions were fabricated, and did not represent the real wishes of his people. Eventually it was arranged that a brother of the Grand Vizier should accompany the Kaïd, who was on a visit to Court, to the tribe to inquire into the state of affairs, that the Kaïd should pay the Grand Vizier's brother 100*l.* a-day during this mission, and then return to Court with him. So soon as they were some distance from the capital the Kaïd, after expressing in strong terms his opinion of the Vizier and Government, advised the Vizier's brother to betake himself back to Morocco City with all possible speed, which advice was promptly followed.

Kaïd Maclean informs me that the Kaïd of M'tooga is a strong and independent man, possessed of considerable wealth, and was the cause of all the disturbances in the Haha district after the late Sultan's death. It is not supposed that his defection will prove of serious embarrassment to the Government, but it will add one more Governor at the head of a strong tribe to the number of malcontents.

I also beg leave to transmit copy of another despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean, reporting the arrest of the Kaïd of Oolad Zian and the disturbed condition of the district in consequence.

From news that I receive from the Court and other parts of the country the discontent is increasing, and the grasping avarice of the Vizier is rapidly impoverishing the tribes who are subjected to his exactions, and is doing much injury to trade and industry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

*Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.*

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, July* 11, 1896.

IN a private letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot, dated the 9th July, he mentions that it is currently reported in Saffi that the Kaïd of M'tooga has quarrelled with the Vizier, Sid Hamedben Moosa, that he has taken the field, and is encamped at Imentanoot, in Soos, where he is collecting a force. He has already been joined there by El Gandaffy.

I have no information with regard to the importance of this defection of the Kaïd of M'tooga, but I doubt if the rumour is well founded, as it is within my knowledge that the Kaïd was remarkable for his loyalty to the late Sultan. Many times I have seen him come up to the Court bringing as presents mules laden with specie, strings of splendid horses, and bevies of female slaves at the most valuable age. He never forgot to bring a special present for Mulai Abdulaziz, and he was always on most excellent terms with the present Vizier.

I shall be surprised if the rumour of his defection is not traceable to a Government source.

I have received a report of the same story being current in Mogador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLEN MACLEAN.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

*Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.*

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, July* 11, 1896.

ON Thursday or Friday last, the recently-appointed Kaïd Radi of Oolad Zian was arrested by order of the Sultan.

The arrest was effected by the Showia Kaïds who were escorting Rahamna prisoners to Rabat, assisted by the tribe of M'dakra.

As a consequence the Oolad Zian and M'dakra tribes are engaged in warfare, and the roads through their respective districts are insecure for caravans and travellers.

I believe a peace will soon be arranged between them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLEN MACLEAN.

---

No. 22.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.*—(*Received July* 28.)

Sir, *Downing Street, July* 28, 1896.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, inclosing copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier respecting the alleged attack on the falucho "San José" off the Riff coast of Morocco.

In view of the facts which have been disclosed in the course of the investigation in this case, Mr. Chamberlain concurs in the Marquess of Salisbury's proposal that the matter should now be allowed to drop.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

---

No. 23.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.*—(*Received July* 31.)

Sir, *Downing Street, July* 30, 1896.

IN reply to your letter of the 2nd instant relative to the contraband trade between Gibraltar and the Moorish coast, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, the accompanying



copy of a letter from Sir Robert Biddulph, to whom the matter was referred, and to inform you that Mr. Chamberlain concurs in Sir R. Biddulph's view, that it is not desirable to raise the question of amending the law so as to require production of ships' manifests on demand.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

---

Inclosure in No. 23.

*Sir R. Biddulph to Colonial Office.*

Sir, *London, July* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, inviting my observations on a correspondence regarding measures proposed by Vice-Consul Bewicke for preventing contraband trade between Gibraltar and the Moorish coast.

The Vice-Consul has information that two British feluccas are suspected of being engaged in this contraband trade, and he suggests that if a copy of their manifest were given to the Captain of the Port at Gibraltar, before sailing, it would have a deterrent effect.

I believe I am correct in stating that there is no law at present under which a copy of the manifest could be demanded. The question has been raised in past time, but it has not been thought advisable to amend the law in this respect. I do not say that such amendment might not be desirable; but looking to the magnitude of the interests involved, applying as it would to a mass of shipping exceeding what enters most British ports, I should hesitate to raise the question merely for the sake of dealing with two feluccas which are suspected of being engaged in contraband trade on the Moorish coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BIDDULPH.

---

No. 24.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received August* 5.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 26, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 69 of the 11th instant, I would submit whether Messrs. Dehn and Heine could not be requested to state what amounts are due to them by the Moorish merchants mentioned in their letter to your Lordship of the 29th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 25.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received August* 5.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 26, 1896.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 68 of the 11th instant relative to losses sustained by British subjects during the recent disturbances in the M'zab district.

There was a meeting of the Diplomatic Body yesterday to discuss the question of the manner in which the claims of those who had suffered losses should be presented to the Moorish Government. I explained to my colleagues that the claims, with the exception of one, which had been preferred by British merchants, were indirect claims, and that I felt some difficulty in requesting the Moorish Government to indemnify them directly. I could only, looking at the question strictly from the point of view of international law, suggest to the Moorish Government to compensate those Moorish

debtors of British firms who, owing to the total loss of their property, were unable to meet their commercial obligations.

My colleagues had both direct and indirect claims; the former were easy to arrange, and were of a simple character, but in regard to the latter I found that most of the foreign Representatives were sceptical as to the Moorish Government giving fair compensation to their subjects who had suffered. I saw that there was a general consensus of opinion, first, that the Moorish Government were directly responsible for the disturbances, and, secondly, that it would be difficult to differentiate in the minds of the Moorish Government between direct and indirect claims.

I agreed with my colleagues as to the responsibility of the Moorish Government, and said that, though the latter would probably disavow it, I should be prepared to allude to it in any communication I might address to the Moorish Government on the subject.

As regards the indirect claims, I informed my colleagues that I had been in communication with my Government, and that I could scarcely place these claims on exactly the same footing as those which might arise out of destruction of property actually owned by, and in the possession of, foreign subjects. This view none of my colleagues contested, but they seemed to think that it might leave a door open to the Moorish Government to escape from giving any compensation at all for indirect losses.

After some discussion it was agreed that each of us should present the claims or communicate a statement of the losses sustained to the Moorish Government in the form which appeared most suitable to each individual Representative, but that it would be well if the notes on the question were submitted to the Moorish Government simultaneously.

I think it would be of advantage to adopt a simultaneous action; and I trust that if the Moorish Government pay one category of claims, they will also liquidate the others. In any case, I will take care that British subjects receive the same treatment as those of other nations in like circumstances.

I beg leave to transmit the draft of a note which I would propose to address to the Grand Vizier; and I should be glad to know if it meets with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

*Sir A. Nicolson's proposed communication to the Grand Vizier.*

(After compliments.) *Tangier, August* , 1896.

I WOULD wish to lay before your Excellency the cases of certain British merchants and British-protected subjects who are likely to suffer considerable losses owing to the late disturbances in the M'zab district, disturbances which, so far as my information goes, arose on account of a change of Kaids, and of the inadequacy of the Government force dispatched to the district to carry out that measure.

M'zab, as you are doubtless aware, is an important business centre, and British merchants were accustomed to sell merchandize to native merchants residing there. In the course of this business, the latter had accounts with the British merchants, and have hitherto, so I am informed, punctually and honestly discharged their obligations.

During these above-mentioned disturbances some of the native merchants lost all their possessions, and find themselves in a ruined condition, and unable to pay the debts owing to British merchants.

I inclose a list of these native merchants, with the amounts due by them to the several British merchants. The latter were desirous of obtaining notarial evidence from eye-witnesses of what occurred, but it appears that the Khalifa of Daralbaida declined to permit the Adools to write such documents. The British merchants, however, would be ready to show by their books that the amounts owing to them are correct, and are not exaggerated.

The British-protected subject Melka appears to have had a considerable amount of his own property destroyed, and was obliged to pay a ransom to release his family. He has also outstanding debts due to him; but I am endeavouring to obtain some further information in regard to these before communicating them to your Excellency,



and it is also possible that one or two other British merchants may likewise suffer losses in the same manner as Messrs. Lamb and Fernau, but I have as yet no particulars to furnish you on this point.

Now, oh friend, I know that you are a just and enlightened man, and are well aware and anxious that justice should always be done, and that those engaged in lawful commerce should not be injured. I have no doubt but that you will take such measures as will save the British merchants from suffering losses, either by placing the native merchants in a position to discharge their debts by granting them compensation, or by any other means which seems to you right and just. I leave the matter in your hands, feeling confident that I do well in doing so, and may peace and prosperity attend you.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

List of Claims.

| | Dol. | c. |
|---|---|---|
| Due to Messrs. Lamb Brothers, for goods supplied by:— | | |
| Abraham Memzal | 2,558 | 78 |
| Ishak Benshimol | 1,149 | 79 |
| Meir Wold Sammo | 546 | 05 |
| Abraham-ben-Strias | 1,025 | 02 |
| Suleiman Levy | 335 | 30 |
| Saleh-ben-Sharky | 735 | 14 |
| Total | 6,350 | 08 |
| Due to Mr. Fernau for goods supplied by:— | | |
| David-ben-Malka | 1,029 | 45 |
| Yamin Bohbat | 14 | 75 |
| Isaac Corcos.. | 360 | 00 |
| Mersby-ben-Buroch | 526 | 35 |
| Abraham Jawy | 1,420 | 00 |
| To the goods store— | | |
| Abraham-ben-Mugal<br>Abraham Bohbat | 1,051 | 75 |
| Hassan Hami Pilo | 542 | 65 |
| Abraham Jawy | 925 | 00 |
| Hassa Schalom-el-Bary | 213 | 65 |
| Abraham Pilo | 320 | 15 |
| Samuel Dakan | 267 | 45 |
| To the shop— | | |
| Samuel Dakan | 800 | 00 |
| Joseph-ben-Ammar | 220 | 00 |
| Total | 7,691 | 20 |

Statement of property belonging to Moses Melka, British-protected subject, stolen or destroyed at M'zab.

| | Dollars. |
|---|---|
| Two houses | 1,320 |
| One store | 210 |
| Room outside house | 80 |
| Two shops, let at 8 dollars a-month, ten years' purchase | 960 |
| Synagogue and contents | 365 |
| Household effects | 480 |
| Two silos of wheat in patio of house | 288 |
| 870 fleeces of wool | 271 |
| Honey | 83 |
| Butter | 300 |
| Beeswax, 9 cwt. | 342 |
| Five mules.. | 350 |
| Thirty-five colas oil | 131 |
| Four barrels spirit | 36 |
| Ransom paid to release members of family | 121 |
| Total | 5,337 |

## No. 26.

*Question asked in the House of Commons, August 6, 1896.*

*Mr. Joseph A. Pease,*—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, seeing that large numbers of slaves are from time to time being openly sold in Mogador and other seaport towns in Morocco contrary to prohibition, Her Majesty's Government will communicate with the British Minister at Tangier with a view to representations being made to the Government of Morocco against the continuance of this traffic.

*Answer.*

Instructions have from time to time been sent to successive British Ministers at Tangier to take every favourable opportunity for urging on the Sultan the suppression of the Traffic in Slaves.

As recently as March last Sir A. Nicolson was reminded of these instructions, which there is no doubt that he has borne in mind. He will, however, be asked to report upon the matter.

## No. 27.

*Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.*

*Foreign Office, August 7, 1896.*

Gentlemen,

WITH reference to my letter of the 11th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has inquired what amounts are due to your firm by the Moorish merchants mentioned in your communication of the 29th June last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

## No. 28.

*Messrs. Dehn and Heine to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)*

*47, Newton Street, Manchester, August 8, 1896.*

My Lord,

WE are in receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, and in reply we inclose herewith copy of a letter written by us to Sir Arthur Nicolson at Tangier under date of 5th instant, giving him particulars of the amounts owing to us by Mohamed El Hartzi el Slani, of Casablanca, and Mohamed Tassi, of Casablanca. We inclose an extract, showing the amount due to us by Dres Kotoni, of Casablanca, and shall feel obliged if you will kindly do the necessary with these documents.

We are, &c.
(Signed) B. A. DEHN AND HEINE.

### Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

*Messrs. Dehn and Heine to Sir A. Nicolson.*

*47, Newton Street, Manchester, August 5, 1896.*

Sir,

WE beg leave to address you in a matter of grave importance.

Through the recent disturbances in the M'zab, two of our clients, the traders Mohamed El Hartzi el Slani, of Casablanca, and Mohamed Tassi, of Casablanca, were totally ruined and find themselves unable to fulfil their engagements towards us. The two traders referred to owe us considerable sums of money for goods received from us, amounting as per statements herewith, to 1,287*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* owing by Mohamed El Hartzi el Slani, and 115*l.* 9*s.* owing by Mohamed Tassi.



Both assert that they cannot liquidate their debts to us till they have received compensation from the Moorish Government for the losses they sustained through the events in the Mzab. We therefore beg to solicit your aid so that these considerable sums may not be lost to us, and would earnestly request that you urge upon the Moorish Government the necessity of a prompt settlement of the claims of the above-mentioned two traders. Our agents in Casablanca, Messrs. Brandt and Toel, have already, at our request, addressed themselves in this affair to the British Consulate at Casablanca, and you may already have had a report from there, and we only address you direct as this is an affair of great importance to us.

Thanking you in anticipation for the trouble we are causing you, we are, &c.
(Signed) B. A. DEHN AND HEINE.

### Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

**CLAIMS.**

*Mohamed Tassi, Casablanca, Dr. to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| December 31, 1895, to balance as per account current .. .. .. | 338 | 7 | 3 |
| June 8, 1896, to interest account at 5 per cent.. .. .. .. | 7 | 10 | 4 |
| | 345 | 17 | 7 |
| „ „ by remittance .. .. .. .. .. | 231 | 3 | 5 |
| | 114 | 14 | 2 |
| August 5, 1896, to interest at 5 per cent. .. .. .. .. | | 14 | 10 |
| | 115 | 9 | 0 |

47, *Newton Street, Manchester,*
*August 5, 1896.*

*Mohamed El Hartzi el Slani, Casablanca, Dr. to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| December 31, 1895, to balance as per account current .. .. .. | 1,251 | 10 | 4 |
| August 5, 1896, to interest at 5 per cent. .. .. .. .. | 35 | 19 | 0 |
| | 1,287 | 9 | 4 |

47, *Newton Street, Manchester,*
*August 5, 1896.*

*Dres Kotoni, Casablanca, Dr. to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| To draft due December 7, 1895, unpaid .. .. .. .. | 48 | 18 | 4 |
| To interest as per account rendered .. .. .. .. .. | 3 | 0 | 7 |
| | 51 | 18 | 11 |

47, *Newton Street, Manchester,*
*August 5, 1896.*

## No. 29.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)*

(No. 93 A.)

*Tangier, July 31, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 71 of the 20th instant, relative to the Concession for a cable on the coast of Morocco. According to private information which I have recently received from the Court, no application has been made for a Concession, and the Vizier stated that the Moorish Government did not intend to concede to any Company the permission to lay a cable down the coast. I do not think that the moment is opportune for approaching

formally the Moorish Government on the subject; but I would propose, should your Lordship concur, to inform the Grand Vizier indirectly and unofficially that in case the Moorish Government ever contemplate extending telegraphic communication down the coast it is hoped that they will give the first offer to the Eastern Telegraph Company. I have been told, though I have not been able hitherto to verify the statement, that an engagement was given to the Moorish Government that no application would be made by the Eastern Telegraph Company for a further extension, but I think it would be advisable to endeavour to secure their having the first offer in what seems to me the somewhat unlikely contingency of the Moorish Government desiring to have telegraphic communication down the coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 30.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)*

(No. 94.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August 4, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of correspondence which has passed between Mr. J. Afriat and myself relative to the desire expressed by the former to open trade at Cape Juby. I beg leave to inclose, under flying seal, to your Lordship, my last communication to Mr. Afriat, so that it may be withheld should your Lordship not approve of its terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

*Mr. J. Afriat to Sir A. Nicolson.*

Sir, *Mogador, June 25, 1896.*

HAVING heard that the Sultan intends to open Cape Juby to foreign trade, I am considering the advisability of going there with the view of opening up commercial relations. Before taking any decisive steps, I should esteem it a great kindness if you would let me know whether the port has been opened to trade; also, in that case, whether the duties are on the same basis as at the other Morocco ports. At the same time, I should wish to obtain a good-sized Government store, or permission to build one.

Should it be necessary to obtain special permission to visit the port, may I ask your Excellency to whom I should apply for such sanction?

I may add that for many years my firm (H. and J. Afriat, of 110, London Wall, E.C.) has been trading extensively with Southern Morocco, Mogador, and elsewhere.

My non-success in getting any encouragement from the local Moorish officials is my excuse for troubling your Excellency in this matter.

As I am leaving in a few days for London, I shall esteem it a favour if you will address your reply to me at 110, London Wall, E.C.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOSEPH A. AFRIAT.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Mr. J. Afriat.*

Sir, *Tangier, July 7, 1896.*

IN reply to your letter of the 25th ultimo, I have to inform you that on the occasion of the transfer of Cape Juby to the Sultan of Morocco an arrangement was come to that the port of Cape Juby should remain open for buying and selling, and that the customs duties for imports and exports should be the same as at other ports on the Moorish coast. The Moorish Government agreed to grant suitable lots of land on twenty years' leases to foreign merchants on the application of their respective Legations, upon which they may construct, at their own expense, whatever dwellings and warehouses they may find necessary. At the end of the twenty years' lease the said allotments, with the buildings thereon, are to become the property of the Moorish Government. The Moorish Government will not, however, be bound to provide houses or warehouses, nor to supply boats to land or ship cargo, until such time as it may please the Sultan to give orders to that effect.



I am, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 3 in No. 30.

*Mr. J. Afriat to Sir A. Nicolson.*

Sir, *London, July 28, 1896.*

I AM in receipt of yours of the 7th instant, and beg to thank you for your courteous information contained therein. Will you now be good enough to inform me if there will be any expense attached to my application through you to the Moorish Government for a twenty years' lease of ground at Cape Juby for the purpose of erecting warehouses for trading purposes, and also if such application would be granted. Also, in the view of the difficulties of getting to Cape Juby, I should be obliged if you would inform me whether I could obtain a passage by the Sultan's boat, "Sid Terki," which sails regularly from Mogador.

Thanking you in anticipation, I am, &c.

(Signed) JOSEPH A. AFRIAT.

---

## No. 31.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 82.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 11, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 93 of the 26th ultimo relative to the losses sustained by British subjects during the recent disturbances in the M'zab district, and I approve the note which you propose to address to the Grand Vizier on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

## No. 32.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 84.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 12, 1896.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 92 of the 26th ultimo, I transmit to you herewith a Statement showing the amount of Messrs. Dehn and Heine's claim against Dres Kotoni, of Casablanca.*

The above-mentioned firm state that they have communicated with you direct with regard to other claims owing to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

* Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

## No. 33.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 85.)

*Foreign Office, August* 14, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 94 of the 4th instant, inclosing correspondence with Mr. Afriat relative to his wish to open trade at Cape Juby.

I approve your action in this matter, and have caused your letter of the 6th instant to be forwarded to Mr. Afriat.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

## No. 34.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 95.)

*Tangier, August* 6, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 75 of the 28th ultimo, transmitting a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid,* which incloses an extract from the "Pais" newspaper in regard to the new jetty at Tangier. The journal in question is at fault in stating that any concession was granted to the British Legation, as I have already had the honour to inform your Lordship in my despatch No. 84 of the 7th ultimo. It is true that a Tariff for loading and unloading merchandize will be put into force, but this Tariff has received the approval of all the Foreign Representatives and of the Moorish authorities, and will naturally only be applied to those goods which make use of the jetty. It will be perfectly open to exporters and importers to ship and land their goods from and on the beach, as is at present the custom, without paying any jetty dues. Those who use the conveniences offered by the jetty will be required to pay a small due, as is but fair. I beg leave to inclose a copy of the jetty Tariff, and to return the inclosures transmitted in your Lordship's despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 34.

TANGIER JETTY TARIFF.

| Articles. | Dues. | Per— |
|---|---|---|
| | Pence. | |
| Ambergoes, T-cloths, and flannelets, and all articles in bales of more than 12 cwt. .. .. .. | 6 | Bale. |
| Muslins and woollen cloths .. .. .. | 2 | " |
| Beer— | | |
| In cases of 4 dozen .. .. .. .. | 1 | Case. |
| " less than 4 dozen .. .. .. | ½ | " |
| Silk, in sacks .. .. .. .. .. | 1 | Sack. |
| Tea, in cases, and cinnamon .. .. .. | ½ | Case. |
| Iron buckets .. .. .. .. .. | 1 | 100 buckets. |
| Matches, in cases .. .. .. .. | ½ | Case. |
| Flour, in sacks of 100 kilog. .. .. .. | 1 | Sack. |
| Sugar, in sacks of 75 kilog. .. .. .. | ½ | " |
| Wine— | | |
| In barrels of 2 cwt. .. .. .. .. | 1 | Barrel. |
| " less than 2 cwt. .. .. .. | ½ | " |
| Candles— | | |
| In small boxes (12½ kilog.) .. .. .. | ½ | 4 boxes. |
| In big boxes (25 kilog.) .. .. .. | 1 | 4 " |
| Cement, in barrels .. .. .. .. | 1 | Barrel. |
| Hardware, in cases .. .. .. .. | ½ | Case. |
| Spices, cloves, pepper, in large cask .. .. | ½ | Sack. |
| Petroleum .. .. .. .. .. | 2 | 10 cases. |
| Every other article .. .. .. .. | ½ | Cwt. |

Goods which are reshipped will pay half the above Tariff on reshipment.

* Sir H. Drummond Wolff's No. 167 (not printed).



## No. 34*.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 20, 1896.

M'ZAB claims: May I send my note to Moorish Government, the draft of which I submitted for your Lordship's approval in my despatch No. 93 of 26th July.

The notes from other Legations have been sent in.

---

EXPORTS.

| Articles. | Dues. | Per— |
|---|---|---|
| | Pence. | |
| Bales of hides .. .. .. .. .. | 2 | 4 bales. |
| „ slippers .. .. .. .. | 2 | 6 „ |
| Sacks of bird seed .. .. .. .. | 2 | 8 sacks. |
| Boxes of dates (large) .. .. .. .. | 2 | 12 boxes. |
| „ „ (small) .. .. .. .. | 2 | 20 „ |
| Bales of hair, "sergheena," and wax .. .. | 2 | 8 bales. |
| Sacks of "ghazool," and all other articles in cases .. | 2 | 8 {sacks. cases. |
| Baskets of fowls and eggs .. .. .. | 2 | 8 baskets. |
| Sacks of tanning, bones, small boxes of eggs .. | 2 | 10 {sacks. boxes. |
| Every other article .. .. .. .. | ½ | Cwt. |

PASSENGERS.

| | Dues. |
|---|---|
| | Pence. |
| For those going on to the jetty .. .. .. .. | 2 |
| For those who embark or disembark from steamers which come alongside the jetty .. .. .. .. .. | 6 |
| For those with return tickets for embarkation and disembarkation | 8 |

No. 35.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 20, 1896, 4·15 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 30 of the 20th instant.

"Yes."

No. 36.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 96.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 11, 1896.

THE Sultan's Agent in Tangier, Cid Mohammed Torres, has obtained a lengthened leave of absence, and his post is to be filled by Hadj Mohammed Lebadi.

Cid Mohammad Torres has, I am told, been frequently tendering his resignation of late, being of advanced years and weary of the post which he has held for so many years. The leave of absence at present accorded to him will, in all likelihood, be a permanent one, both on account of his age and his strong desire to remain in retirement, and also because he is not in sympathy with the Grand Vizier and his domestic policy. He is a close ally of Cid Gharnit, the nominal Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is practically in disgrace and excluded from any part in public affairs.

The successor of Cid Mohommad Torres is, like the retiring Minister, a native of Tetuan, and has held several posts under Government, having recently been one of the Customs Administrators at Tangier.

He is said to be a liberal-minded and enlightened man; but it will be better to postpone forming an opinion till he has been some little time in office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

## No. 37.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 97.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 11, 1896.

DURING my stay at Morocco city I was requested by some British merchants at Saffi to move the Moorish Government to assist them in recovering debts from their native debtors. As the outstanding debts were of a considerable amount, and as I had no means of ascertaining whether they were all well founded, I asked Mr. Consul Maclean to inquire into the matter before I took any steps with the Moorish authorities. Mr. Maclean had most of the documents sent up to him at Dar-al-Baida for examination, and on his proceeding to Saffi to inspect the Vice-Consulate, he also inquired personally into the claims, so far as he was able to do on a short visit.

I have the honour to transmit copy of a report which he has addressed to me on the subject, and I trust that your Lordship will approve of Mr. Maclean proceeding later to Saffi when the moment has arrived for rendering his presence desirable.

It is unfortunate that there is no other method, in certain circumstances, of dealing with questions of this nature than by Diplomatic or Consular intervention, but as matters are at present in many districts of this country this mode of procedure seems to be the only one which can be employed with any hope of a foreign creditor obtaining his just rights. I am quite of Mr. Maclean's opinion that the system of acting through native collectors is a bad one, but I believe this practice is chiefly limited to the Saffi district.

When times are normal and trade is in a healthy condition, merchants have usually little difficulty in settling their accounts with their native customers; but the events of recent years have brought about a condition of affairs which is very embarrassing and disquieting to the foreign merchant.

The custom has been to obtain letters from the Court to the Governors, when all other means have failed, to send down defaulting debtors to the coast ports, but I do not know if this custom can be based, as Mr. Maclean considers, on Article X of the General Treaty of 1856, as I am in doubts whether this clause does not refer solely to debts contracted in the dominions of the Queen. I have followed the custom which I found existing, and which, as I have mentioned above, seems to afford the only means of safe-guarding the lawful interests of foreign merchants when the latter are unable themselves to obtain payment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 37.

*Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.*

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, August* 7, 1896.

WITH reference to the Saffi claims of British merchants put forward to your Excellency by Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot, I have the honour to report that I invited all parties concerned to bring their alleged grievances before me, and that I would inquire into them.

Long lists of debts were presented by Messrs. Hunot and Co., Messrs. W. H. Andrews and Co., Mr. E. T. Carrara, Messrs. Lamb Brothers, and Messrs. Zino Brothers. Moorish notarial documents in proof of these debts accompanied the lists.

The aggregate amount of money involved is about 200,000 dollars, and beyond this amount is a similar sum alleged to be owing to Messrs. Murdoch, Butler, and Co.; but this firm did not ask for official assistance.

In connection with the debts presented to me, I indexed, translated, and examined about 2,500 Moorish documents, a laborious and lengthy task. I also, on the occasion of my recent visit to Saffi, examined the books and Managers of the firms concerned.

I refused to have anything to say to Messrs. Zino Brothers, as their list was made up of very small and trifling amounts, and their documents were in the name of their Moorish semsar, who was not in Saffi.



Messrs. Lamb Brothers, at my request, also withdrew their list, on my representation that most of the debtors on it were manifestly insolvent, and that the amounts against them, which did not aggregate any considerable sum, should be written off.

I informed Mr. E. T. Carrara that I would give him local assistance, but could not promise to present his claims to your Excellency, should such a course become necessary, as his documents in support were made out in the name of "Tajer Doro," French Consul, he being French Vice-Consul, and it therefore seemed to me that he used the official prestige of the flag he represented to aid him in his business in preference to relying on his own Government for legal support.

I found all the documents I examined perfectly sound in Moorish law, and my conclusion in this respect was confirmed by natives learned in Shraa, and by the Kaïd of Saffi. I am, however, unprepared to say, without interviewing the debtors, that each document bears on its face the true nature of the transaction it refers to.

In my judgment the merchants' books were well kept, and regularly entered up.

I ascribe merchants' difficulties in the collection of debts to the following causes:—

1. Disorganization of Local Government following on the death of the late Sultan, and a consequent disappearance of many debtors.
2. Neglect to use the Consular machinery at their disposal in accordance with Treaty stipulations.
3. A foolish trust in the fidelity of their native agents and collectors.
4. Failure of crops.
5. The native belief that their Government will pay debts.
6. Giving five times more credit than was warranted by circumstances.

I believe that 75 per cent. of money due can be recovered through the ordinary Consular channels if the local authorities once learn that it is incumbent upon them to act up to the stipulations laid down in Article X of the General Treaty, 1856.

Down to the time of my arrival in Saffi there was no proof that this clause had been infringed, as not a single written request to a Kaïd had been officially made by the local Vice-Consul on behalf of a British merchant that a debtor should be sent into town.

Merchants had written privately to Kaïds, and their collectors had made personal applications, but the proper machinery had not been used, hence it was impossible to complain to the Moorish Government of any slackness on the part of the Moorish local authorities.

I pointed this out to British merchants, and informed them that I was prepared to take each debt on its merits and to pursue it to a settlement, and that they should have all the support they were entitled to. I invited them to request me to write to the local authority to send any debtors into town to be tried by Moorish law; but each letter I wrote must be paid for according to the Consular tariff, and would only apply to one debt. My objects in this were to make them careful in their selection of debtors written for; that they should not ask for many debtors to be sent into town until they were convinced that the Government machinery was in working order; that if my request to the local authority was not attended to there would be ground for a legitimate complaint to the Moorish Government; and that, when debtors observed that the Local Government support was given to British creditors, they would come into town of their own accord and settle with their creditors. Thus business would be set rolling again, which is practically all that merchants desire.

I wrote twenty-three letters, through the Kaïd of Saffi, to various Kaïds, requesting certain debtors to be sent into town. With one exception, all the replies I received were either evasive or contained promises of acquiescence to my request, which were not fulfilled. I would inclose this correspondence for your Excellency's information, and would pray for support were it not that I received a private message from the Vizier asking me to send him the names of the Kaïds who did not attend to my requests, and he would send me letters for them. I therefore propose waiting a little while until I see if these letters are forthcoming, and if they have the effect hoped for.

The merchants concerned are now in a reasonable frame of mind. They inform me that they are only anxious, for the present, to get a little of their money back, and that they do not wish to be hard on their debtors.

The debts are of three classes, viz.:—

1. Money advanced for results of harvest;

2. Merchandize sold in the ordinary course of business on credit; and
3. Merchandize sold with the knowledge that the purchasers would immediately resell it, below cost price, to provide themselves with money.

A vicious system has generally prevailed of sending native collectors into the country. These men, having obtained the assistance of Government soldiers, would go to the country markets, seize any unfortunate debtors they could find, and have them put in chains until their relations settled their debts, or the collectors received a present to take some plausible story to their principal that would excuse the debtors for the time being.

There is no doubt in my mind that it has sometimes happened that natives have been imprisoned on account of private debts of collectors which had no connection with British merchants' business.

Further, merchants generally give credit to Arabs recommended by their native agents, who receive presents for this recommendation. In this way agents grow rich as merchants become poorer. These facts are undeniable, although a particular case is very hard to bring home. Many of these abuses would be eradicated were local authorities given to understand that no official steps should be taken to put pressure on debtors on behalf of Europeans, except at the request of the Consular Representative of the firm concerned. Some British merchants represent foreign flags, and make use of this fact to assist them in their business. I submit that it should be made plain to Moorish authorities that all matters pertaining to British businesses should come through the British authorities.

Should the letters from the Vizier be forthcoming, I shall request your Excellency's permission to proceed again to Saffi, and to remain there for a reasonable time until business has resumed its normal grooves.

My recent short visit has had a good effect, inasmuch as a few debtors, feeling something to be in the air, have already come in and settled with their creditors.

I am anxious to superintend matters there for a while, as it is a difficult time, and there is no doubt in my mind that, to avoid scandals, and to insure even-handed justice to both sides without friction, the presence of an impartial Consular officer with knowledge of the people and with no personal interests involved is required.

The importance of British commercial interests in Saffi is shown by the fact that two-thirds of its trade is in British hands.

A wholesale imprisonment of debtors would be disastrous to future business prospects, and it would be injudicious of merchants to attempt at once to exact the full amounts of the bonds in their possession.

Merchants' views are too often influenced by the advice of their native agents, to whose minds oppression is a symbol of governmental authority. But it is necessary to remember that after two years' cessation of trade, owing to revolution and rebellion, the situation requires tactful and reasonable handling.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

---

No. 38.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 98.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 14, 1896.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 77 of the 30th ultimo, transmitting a letter from Mr. Bowden in regard to a mining concession which he desires to obtain in the Angera district.

I am afraid that the moment is not an opportune one for moving the Moorish Government to entertain any proposals of the above nature. The country is not yet in a settled condition, and the Moorish Government, apart from the general question of granting concessions, would be indisposed to afford facilities to a foreigner to undertake any enterprises which might be attended with some risk to him personally, and which might result in considerable claims for an indemnity being subsequently preferred. I had an opportunity some time ago of speaking with a Moorish official on the subject, and his views, as reported in my despatch No. 171 of the 4th December last, represent fairly accurately those which, I believe, are entertained at the Shereefian Court.

I may state confidentially that, so far as my information goes, the Grand Vizier



is opposed to any scheme which may develop the resources of the country, and which may bring Europeans into contact with the natives. The reply which he gives, when the subject of improving and developing the country is touched upon, is, that the Government must have time accorded to it to bring the tribes into order aud subjection, and that, when this is accomplished, projects of reforms and similar questions can then be discussed.

In the circumstances, I would submit that it would be wiser for Mr. Bowden to defer making any application as to mining concessions for the present. Any request for a mining concession would either be refused, or its acceptance would be fettered with such conditions as would make it practically unworkable.

I have not heard, nor do I believe, that there is any ground for surmising, that the French Legation, as suggested by Mr. Bowden, has in view any project in the Angera district of an industrial or commercial character. The condition of affairs in Morocco is so uncertain that I would recommend no one to invest any capital in any undertakings in the country at the present time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 39.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 15, 1896.

THE great majority of the Governors of the several districts in this country who have been in attendance at Court during the past few months have now returned to their seats of government, and from reports which have been received from the interior it would seem that they are active in reimbursing themselves for the large sums of money which had been exacted from them at the capital. This line of conduct following upon the events of the last two years gives little hope of a speedy return to tranquillity and prosperity in the country, and I beg leave to inclose copy of an article in the "Réveil du Maroc," which, I think, describes very fairly the present situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 39.

*Extract from the "Réveil du Maroc" of August* 12, 1896.

LE retour dans leurs circonscriptions respectives des Caïds qui avaient suivi l'expédition Chérifienne à Marrakech a été marqué partout par une application, plus rigoureuse que jamais, du système d'extorsions pratiqué à l'égard des populations rurales. Le Caïd El Habassi lui-même, qui s'était toujours distingué par une certaine modération dans sa gestion administrative, ne cesse, depuis qu'il est rentré au Gharb, d'imposer de fortes contributions à tous les douars. Les plus pauvres de ses administrés essaient de satisfaire comme ils peuvent aux exigences du Caïd; les autres prennent par bandes la route de Larache et des autres villes de la côte, pour s'y procurer, par des procédés plus ou moins réguliers, la protection étrangère, comme moyen de s'y soustraire.

Nous ne nous sommes jamais fait de grandes illusions sur les grandes vertus que l'imagination poétique de certains écrivains, nourris de faux orientalisme, se complait à découvrir sous les larges plis des burnous de certains hauts dignitaires de Sa Majesté Chérifienne; mais nous ne croyions pas pouvoir leur contester cette clairvoyance naturelle qui n'est qu'un simple instinct de conservation et nous pensions qu'ils avaient à cœur d'épargner au jeune Sultan des embarras qui, en menaçant sa position, compromettraient gravement la leur. Mais, à en juger par l'entêtement que met le Maghzen, malgré les déboires que cette politique lui a déjà valus, à ruiner les populations et à semer partout le mécontentement et l'irritation, il faut croire que l'amour effréné de l'argent a fini par faire étouffer chez lui le sentiment de la prudence la plus élémentaire.

On professe, il est vrai, au Maghzen cette doctrine paradoxale, que le meilleur moyen d'assurer l'exercice régulier de la souveraineté Chérifienne est d'affaiblir les populations en les ruinant. Mais on n'y comprend pas que l'application de cet étrange système comme moyen d'assurer l'autorité du Maghzen est contrecarrée par le mouvement qu'elle déter-

mine vers la protection étrangère, mouvement qui menace de confirmer le pronostic d'un homme d'État Espagnol qui, lors des conférences de Madrid qui aboutirent à la fameuse Convention de 1880, prévoyait, en parlant des embarras que suscitait au Maghzen l'exercice de la protection étrangère, qu'un beau jour le Sultan, en se réveillant, pourrait se trouver sans sujets.

Nous ne saurions trop insister sur la gravité de cette situation dans les circonstances présentes et nous croyons qu'il est fort dangereux de s'endormir avec cette idée, que les soulèvements des tribus et les déprédations des Caïds n'ont jamais ébranlé l'édifice politique de ce pays. Si le Moghreb n'a point changé depuis des siècles, le monde a marché autour de lui et le frottement continuel avec les autres pays résultant des transactions commerciales lui a, pour ainsi dire, insensiblement infusé des éléments qui le placent dans l'alternative de modifier, dans une certaine mesure, ses procédés de Gouvernement, ou de s'exposer à sombrer dans un cataclisme.

Il serait vraiment à désirer que la diplomatie des Puissances intéressées au maintien du *statu quo* Marocain, prit à tâche d'arrêter le Gouvernement Marocain dans la pente dangereuse où il glisse, en l'éclairant sur ses intérêts. Il n'est pas du tout question d'intervention incorrecte dans les affaires intérieures du Gouvernement auprès duquel on est accrédité. Le Maroc est un pays exceptionnel que les hautes considérations politiques et le maintien de la paix générale obligent à considérer comme un État régulièrement constitué. Il ne doit pas être moins prévenu de ses erreurs et défendu contre ses propres entraînements, par ceux qui ont le souci de sa conservation et le devoir de sauvegarder, au milieu des luttes intestines des tribus, les intérêts commerciaux de leurs pays respectifs.

---

No. 40.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 100.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, reporting the outbreak of disturbances between two tribes in the neighbourhood of Tetuan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 40.

*Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.*

Sir, *Tetuan, August* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that hostilities have broken out between the Beni Housmar and the Benider.

On Friday afternoon, 14th instant, the Benider, according to report, 500 to 600 strong, retaliated on the Beni Housmar, and burnt everything they could coming close to the town.

Amongst other people living in gardens Hadj Abdelkerim Brisha had to come into the town, as fighting was going on round his garden.

The Governor was apparently very much alarmed, and closed four of the five gates of the town. After about two hours the Benider retired.

I am informed that the Benider returned yesterday and cut down fig trees, and destroyed a lot of the maize crops belonging to the Beni Housmar, and remained in that district, but I have not been able to find out if this really is the fact.

These disturbances and destruction of crops will have a very serious effect on the town if not put a stop to, but the Governor, as far as I can make out, does nothing to stop them.

I understand that hitherto the Beni Housmar have been looked on as the guards of the town, and have looked after the safety of the roads, and have in this way incurred the enmity of the other tribes.



The relations between the Governor and the Beni Housmar are rather strained, as they would not accept the Sheikh he chose, and they now refuse to send any tribute.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

---

No. 41.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 88.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 24, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 93 of the 31st ultimo, relative to the wish of the Eastern Telegraph Company to obtain a Concession from the Moorish Government for the construction of a cable on the coast of Morocco.

I approve the communication which you propose to address to the Grand Vizier on this subject, and have caused the purport of your despatch to be communicated to the Telegraph Company, for their confidential information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 42.

*Foreign Office to the Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 25, 1896.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 17th ultimo, relative to the question of a Concession for the laying of cables along the coast of Morocco, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on this subject.

He states that according to private information which he has recently received from the Court, no application has been made for a Concession, and the Vizier stated that the Moorish Government did not intend to concede to any Company the permission to lay a cable down the coast.

Sir A. Nicolson adds that he does not think the moment opportune for formally approaching the Moorish Government on the subject, but he proposes to inform the Vizier unofficially that in case the Moorish Government ever contemplate telegraphic communication in the direction indicated, it is hoped that they will give the first offer to your Company.

He has been told, though he has not been able hitherto to verify the statement, that an engagement was given to the Moorish Government that no application would be made by your Company for a further extension, but he thinks it would be advisable to secure your having the first offer in what seems to him the somewhat unlikely contingency of the Moorish Government desiring to have telegraphic communication down the coast.

The communication which Sir A. Nicolson proposes to make to the Grand Vizier has been approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

---

No. 43.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 102.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 20, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 97 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean regarding the condition of affairs in the Saffi district. I think Mr. Maclean has stated the case very fairly, and unfortunately the situation which he describes is not limited to the territory in question, but is almost general throughout the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 43.

*Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.*

*Dar-al-Baida, August* 14, 1896.

Sir,

REFERRING to my despatch of the 7th instant, with reference to debts owing to Saffi merchants, and to further illustrate the state of affairs accountable for the collapse of trade, I inclose, for your Excellency's information—

1. A list of twenty-eight Kaids who were driven out of their districts, and whose strongholds were destroyed during the rebellion following on the late Sultan's death.

2. A list of twenty-eight Kaids who were elected by the rebels themselves, and whose appointments were afterwards confirmed by the Government for reasons of policy. Four of these have since been seized by strategy and imprisoned by the Government.

The districts of all these Kaids are situated in what is known as the "Howze" of Marakesh, whence all Saffi trade is derived.

The Kaids elected by the rebels do not consider their relation with the Government a very secure one, and their position is dependent on their popularity with the rebels who elected them. Hence they are almost powerless, excepting to extort the uttermost farthing from those natives who did not join in rebellion, and who form the respectable class, and had something to lose.

The confirming of these Kaids in their appointment is regarded as a weakness on the part of Government, and until they are replaced, a consummation which is sure to arrive, all orders issuing from the Court will be obeyed or disobeyed according to the judgment and will of the Kaids' rebel supporters.

There are three Government expeditions under canvas: one is in Sus, near Tarndant, under Mulai Akerman; a second is near Demnat, under Mulai-el-Ameen; and the third is in Blad Ahmar, under the command of Si Mohammed Amrany.

These are all occupied in the endeavour to collect fines, and in drawing from the natives all the substance they possess. The system they employ is to go to a safe district and settle down. They then intrigue with the object of making one village quarrel with its neighbour; both parties come to lay their respective grievances before the Shereef in command, and he settles the matter by mulcting them both of all they possess.

These are normal Moorish methods, and do not call for any special remark, further than that they illustrate the difficulties trade has to contend with, and demonstrate that the postponement of the settlement of debts to Europeans means that the debtors are rapidly being deprived of their assets by a more relentless creditor than the British merchant.

The wholesale driving away of Kaids, the confirmation in their appointments of Kaids elected by rebels, point to the triumph of the disorderly element which is by nature averse to meeting its obligations to creditors, while the orderly element is deprived of its power to do so.

Merchants have waited with great patience through two years for better times; they were always promised that debts would be settled when the seat of Government reached Marakesh, and now this has occurred they discover that the Government is depriving their debtors of all ability to pay.

We appear to have reached a crisis in affairs, and unless means are found to put matters on a better footing, most of the British firms in Saffi, I am probably justified in saying all of them, will have to wind up their business and will become ruined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MACLEAN.

---

No. 44.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 103.)

*Tangier, August* 25, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 86 of the 13th July, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke giving some further information as to the attack on the "San José." I have informed Mr. Bewicke that he need not proceed to the district, as it has been decided to proceed no further with the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.



---

Inclosure in No. 44.

*Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.*

*Tetuan, August* 23, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to the reported attack on the "San José" last March, that I have made repeated inquiries about Amar de Mohammed-ben-Hamed as instructed by you, but have never been able to obtain any information about him, and I do not think he has been here since my return from Tangier on the 8th ultimo.

This morning I was talking to the French Consular Agent in his office, when he said he knew many of the Riffians, and that he had often been asked to go and visit them. He is an Algerian Mahommedan. Whilst we were talking a Riff Shereef came in, and he asked him at my request if he thought one could visit the Riff. He replied he would be happy to take me and bring me back safe.

I asked the French Consular Agent to ask him if he knew anything about the "San José" case, and he said, "Oh yes, I was the man who bought the crew." He mentioned a lot of bargaining, but I gathered that in the end he had paid 65 dollars. He said he bought them, as he knew most of them before.

I then asked various questions, and though I think his statements must he taken with caution, as he appeared to know too much of Tosso and some of the others, and he had his wallet full of various sorts of cartridges, he is most probably mixed up with the smugglers. His statements amounted to the following:—

The attacks on vessels arose from the Riffs having paid in advance 5,500 dollars to some Spaniards for arms in which the Spaniards have never delivered, and they want to recoup themselves.

The attack on the crew of the "San José" arose from the fact that a body of men, knowing she had contraband on board, demanded payment of a sum of money before they permitted the cargo to be landed.

On the crew refusing to pay they were taken prisoners and were about to be shot when he (the Shereef) arrived and eventually bought them.

A large number of Riffians had gathered, and the crew were all very frightened.

One of the men appeared to be suffering from his head, and they might have been roughly handled when they were being searched for money, but this was before he arrived on the scene. The Riffis took the hatches, some sails, an anchor, some provisions, and a few clothes, &c., from the vessel, but these things were taken for the purpose of ransom.

All the things taken were afterwards taken possession of by the Kaïd, and are still in his possession, and the Kaid has written to Cid Hadj M. Torres, that any one bringing a letter from him, and giving a receipt for them, can have them.

That Tosso was very angry and declared there was no contraband on board. That Tosso and the others have not yet been paid in full for the saltpetre landed. That he could take me and show me all the things taken from the vessel as they have never been touched, the potatoes rotting and the sugar perishing.

If you approve of it and will send me I shall be very glad to go and learn what I can on the spot, and in the hands of a Shereef I ought to be quite safe.

The French Consular Agent would much like to go with me. He would be very useful as an interpreter and might meet some other men he knows there. He thinks the Minister would give him leave if you backed up his application.

The best plan would be to go down in a boat with about four Riffians, but these men would have to be well paid.

With a favourable wind one ought to be able to sail down to the place in a few hours, but it would be as well to prepare for being away several days.

The Shereef naturally stipulates that if he takes me I must not do anything to injure the Riffians.

I am afraid I could not go just immediately as Mr. Nahon's mother is very ill

and not expected to live, and there is no one else here I should like to leave in charge, but I should be ready as soon as he is able to take charge.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

P.S.—Mrs. Nahon has died and been buried.

W. S. B.

---

No. 45.

*Foreign Office to Mr. F. L. Bowden.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 2, 1896.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 30th July last, relating to your wish to obtain a concession for working minerals in the district of Angera in Morocco, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a Report has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on this subject.

Sir A. Nicolson states that the present moment is not an opportune one for moving the Moorish Government to entertain any proposals of the above nature. The country is not yet in a settled condition, and the Moorish Government, apart from the general question of granting concessions, would be indisposed to afford facilities to a foreigner to undertake any enterprises which might be attended with some risk to him personally.

He thinks that it would be wiser for you to defer making any application as to mining concessions for the present; any request for such a privilege would either be refused or its acceptance would be fettered with such conditions as would make it practically unworkable.

He adds that he has not heard that there is any ground for surmising, as you suggested, that there are other projects in view in the Angera district of an industrial or commercial character.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

---

No. 46.

*Memorandum by Mr. Oakes.*

ARTICLE X of the General Treaty between this country and Morocco of the 9th December, 1856, provides that a British subject suing, in a Moorish Court of Law, a subject of Morocco for a debt contracted within the British dominions, shall produce certain documents which shall be accepted by the Moorish Court (as evidence of the debt).

The Article then goes on to say that if, at any time, a Moorish debtor should escape to a place within the authority of the Sultan of Morocco, where there should be no British Consular officer residing, the Moorish Government shall compel the Moorish debtor to come to Tangier or some other port where the British creditor may desire to prosecute his claim before a Moorish Court of Law.

This Article did not form part of the original draft Treaty.

The first portion of it (the recovery of debts in a Moorish Court, &c.) seems to have been suggested to Sir J. D. Hay by some merchants of Gibraltar in 1854, before his visit to the Sultan, during which the subsequent negotiations were inaugurated or arranged for. The Chairman of the Exchange Committee of Gibraltar, Mr. Carver, represented the injury to British merchants there, caused by Moorish traders who had purchased merchandize there and escaped to Tangier or Tetuan without paying for it. He proposed the insertion, in the Treaty to be concluded, of a clause stipulating that British subjects might sue Moors for debt in the Moorish Courts, and that, if the debt had been contracted within the dominions of Her Majesty, the British prosecutor should produce documentary evidence of the debt, duly certified, which should have full force in the Moorish Court of Law (Sir J. Hay, No. 7, 7th April, 1854). Here the proposed Article ended.

Sir J. Drummond Hay supported this suggestion, and not having received any



special authority to adopt it, he again drew attention to it on the 13th December, 1854 (No. 50).

In reply, Sir J. D. Hay was informed that Lord Clarendon had been under the impression that Article IX of the Treaty would have provided for the matter in question (this deals with jurisdiction, without limiting the place where the cause of action might arise), but that if he thought otherwise, he was at liberty to propose such an Article as in his judgment would meet the case (No. 2, 6th January, 1855).

The result was that Sir J. D. Hay added an Article to the draft Treaty (which eventually became Article X, though at first called Article XXXVII), embodying the proposal of the Gibraltar merchants, and adding the last paragraph about sending debtors to the ports. There is no explanation of how this paragraph came to be added, or whether it was governed by the limitation "within the British dominions" which qualified the first, or original, part of the Article. The only other reference to the Article during the negotiations seems to have been made by Sir J. Hay in a conversation with the French Chargé d'Affaires, whom he informed that there might possibly be an additional Article proposed regarding the debts incurred by Moorish subjects in Great Britain *or elsewhere* (No. 1, 3rd January, 1856). But in forwarding the draft Treaty as settled with the Moorish Government, Sir J. Hay said: "Article XXXVII is the new stipulation regarding the rights of British subjects to prosecute in this country a Moorish subject for a debt contracted by the latter *within the British dominions.*" From this it would seem as if he regarded the whole Article as having reference to debts so contracted, although the reason for making a distinction in the matter of sending debtors to the ports between debts contracted in Morocco and those contracted outside is not apparent No such distinction is made with regard to *prosecuting* the debt, inasmuch as a debt contracted *in Morocco* could undoubtedly be sued for under Article IX of the Treaty; and as debts contracted in the British dominions can be sued for under Article X, the machinery is thus provided for either case, supposing the debtor to be within reach. Then comes the addition to Article X for bringing an absconding debtor to book, and the justice of the case would appear to require its application in either of the above classes of debt, unless there are local reasons for forming a contrary opinion.

Practice seems to support this view.

In December, 1869, Sir J. D. Hay, in reporting on the subject of debts due to British subjects, said that for the last three years he had received frequent complaints from the Vice-Consuls respecting the difficulty they experienced in obtaining a settlement, and that the orders sent by the Moorish Minister to the Governors of the interior directing them to send all debtors to the ports *where British creditors resided*, were not attended to, &c.

It was, therefore, the practice to send for the debtors who owed money to British residents in Morocco, where undoubtedly the debt must have originated.

Other instances of such debtors being sent to the ports are also referred to by Sir J. D. Hay (No. 38, Commercial, 13th December, 1869), and the omission on some occasions to send them was alluded to by British claimants as an infraction of the Treaty, and this contention was not denied by Sir J. Hay when forwarding the Memoranda of these claimants.

There is further evidence of the same practice in the inclosures in Mr. Satow's No. 125 of the 16th November, 1894. Mr. Imossi, and other claimants, seem to reside in the dominions of the Sultan of Morocco, and in connection with their claims, mention is made of sending debtors to the ports to settle their debts.

In view of these circumstances, and bearing in mind the requirements of justice and the established practice, I think it may be fairly contended that the stipulation in Article X of the General Treaty with Morocco of the 9th December, 1856, providing for the sending of debtors to the ports, is not confined to those cases where the debts have been incurred within the British dominions, but was intended to have a wider application, apart from the first paragraph of that Article which embodied the original proposal of the Gibraltar merchants.

(Signed) A. H. OAKES.

*Foreign Office, September* 5, 1896.

---

No. 47.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 104.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 26, 1896.

THE Italian Minister told me yesterday that he had requested permission of his Government to send the First Interpreter of the Legation, M. Gentile, to Morocco City, in order that he might report on the situation at the Court. M. de Malmusi said that he had found it most inconvenient receiving no direct news from the capital, and as he did not propose to go himself to Court yet awhile, he had dispatched M. Gentile, who would probably make some little stay there. He had instructed M. Gentile to travel overland, so as to have an opportunity of studying the condition of the country, which, so far as his information went, was anything but satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 48.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 105.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 1, 1896.

THE Italian Minister read to me to-day a letter he had received from M. Gentile, who, as I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 104 of the 26th ultimo, is proceeding to Court to report on the situation. Mr. Gentile had arrived as far as Casablanca, and found the usual road between Rabat and that place so unsafe as to render it prudent for him to go by a more circuitous route.

There were only two points of interest in the letter of M. Gentile. Firstly, that the German artillery officer, Captain Meyer, who has been engaged for a period of one year by the Moorish Government to instruct the artillerymen in the new fort at Rabat, had entered upon his duties; and secondly, that he had noticed that between Tangier and Laraiche a large portion of the country was practically under French protection.

In my despatch No. 23 of the 16th February, I reported to your Lordship that as a result of the combined tour in the Arzila district of M. de Moubel and the young Shereefs of Wazzan, many villages had placed themselves under the protection of the latter.

M. de Moubel told me the other day that he was endeavouring to restrict the lavish manner in which the Shereefs had granted this privilege; but it would appear from M. Gentile's report that a considerable portion of the population still enjoy what is practically French protection. The local Moorish authorities appear to take no exception to the removal from their authority of so many individuals; but it would be difficult for the provincial officials to cope with the extension of the spiritual influence of the Shereefs, and it is by these means that the protection of the French Legation is exercised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 49.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 2, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 94 of the 4th ultimo, I have the honour to state that I received a further application from Messrs. H. and J. Afriat for a letter to the Grand Vizier to permit them to open trade at Cape Juby. I have, therefore, addressed a letter to the Vizier, of which I have the honour to transmit a copy, and have forwarded it to Messrs. Afriat, giving the latter at the same time a transcript of Article VI of the Agreement of the 13th September, 1895, so that they



may be aware of the conditions under which pieces of ground at Cape Juby are allotted.

Personally I think that the Moorish Government will endeavour to escape from their obligation to grant plots at Cape Juby, and I very much doubt, from what I heard when at Magador, whether the undertaking which Messrs Afriat have in view will be a profitable one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 49.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Grand Vizier.*

(After compliments.) *Tangier, September* 2, 1896.

MESSRS. AFRIAT, British merchants, of London, are desirous of opening trade at Cape Juby, and in accordance with the terms of Article VI of the Agreement signed on the 13th March, 1895, between your Excellency and my predecessor, I give this letter to Messrs. Afriat, in order that a piece of ground may be allotted to them under the conditions stipulated in the above-mentioned Article.

Peace.

---

No. 50.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 91.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 97 of the 7th ultimo, forwarding a Report by Mr. Consul Maclean of an investigation which he has made into the claims of the British merchants of Saffi against their native debtors.

I approve of Mr. Maclean proceeding to Saffi whenever the moment arrives for rendering his presence there desirable, and I transmit, for your information, a copy of a Memorandum drawn up in this office bearing on the interpretation of the Xth Article of the General Treaty between this country and Morocco of the 9th December, 1856.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 51.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 92.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 15, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 106 of the 2nd instant, forwarding a copy of a letter which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier, applying for permission for Messrs. H. and J. Afriat to open a trading establishment at Cape Juby.

I approve the action which you have taken in this matter,

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 52.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 107. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 12, 1896.

FROM information which has reached me from the Court, it would appear that the French Legation is endeavouring to obtain a predominant influence among Government circles, and to show to the Grand Vizier and other personages that the French are the sole disinterested friends of the Mussulmans. Numerous copies of an

Arabic pamphlet, which was published in Paris by what is called the French African Society, have been distributed by the French Legation both at Court and among the leading provincial Governors, in which the contentment and good treatment of Mussulmans under French rule are highly eulogized, and favourably contrasted with the lot of the natives who are so unfortunate as to be subject to the British dominion in Egypt. A portion of the pamphlet is also devoted to a short description of the condition of affairs in Morocco, in which great praise is accorded to the Grand Vizier for his statesmanlike policy, and the country is represented as rapidly returning to tranquillity and prosperity. I have seen a copy of this pamphlet, which was lent to me for a short period. Furthermore, several Arabic papers with articles written in somewhat a similar tone are being frequently sent to leading personages throughout Morocco. At the same time, the Grand Vizier is agreeably surprised at the change of tone and attitude recently adopted by the French Minister in all business matters, though he seems, according to my information, to have some misgivings as to whether these unexpected amenities may not be the precursors of some unpleasant demands or actions.

My informants are of opinion that the French Legation is preparing the ground for a revival of the proposal made by the French Minister in the summer of last year for some control over the foreign affairs of this country, and that, knowing the increasing difficulties with which the Sultan and Vizier have to contend, the moment is considered to be approaching when the present rulers of Morocco would be ready to lend a willing ear to any suggestions for advice and support from those who are such sincere friends of the adherents of the Moslem faith.

It is also rumoured that the visit of Ci Abdulkerim Brisha, formerly Special Envoy to Madrid, to Court is connected with the idea of sending an Embassy to Paris.

M. de Moubel is at present on short leave of absence, and on his return it will be possible to learn whether anything is in view beyond a desire to establish friendly relations with the Court, relations which hitherto have not been very frank and cordial. In the meantime, I think it right to record the information which has reached me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 53.

*Eastern Telegraph Company to Foreign Office.*—(*Received September* 21.)

*Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, September* 17, 1896.

Sir,

I AM instructed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, addressed to the Managing Director of this Company, advising us of the receipt by the Marquess of Salisbury of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on the subject of a concession for laying submarine telegraph cables along the coast of Morocco, and that, in the event of the Moorish Government contemplating submarine telegraph communication in the direction indicated, Sir A. Nicolson will express the hope that the first offer be given to this Company.

In acknowledging with thanks this information, the Directors of the Company note with satisfaction that the communication which Sir A. Nicolson proposes to make to the Grand Vizier has been approved by the Marquess of Salisbury.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DRAPER, *Secretary.*

---

No. 54.

*Mr. Ashplant to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received September* 21.)

*Rose Villa, Mervan Road, Brixton, S.W., September* 19, 1896.

My Lord,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated the 19th March, which illness and consequent absence from London has prevented me replying to previously. I am perfectly prepared to give whatever assurance you may think necessary that the



privilege shall only be exercised for legitimate purpose of trade. The trade would consist of transactions in wool, ivory, feathers, or any other marketable commodities which can be purchased by barter or otherwise, and I should take there for disposal suitable cotton cloths, tea, sugar, &c. The only reason 20 acres was asked for is that room might be available for extension, and also that ground might be required for stock, such as horses or sheep, which might also be purchased for export from the district of Cape Juby. A much small area may however be sufficient.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. DAVIDGE ASHPLANT.

---

No. 55.

*Foreign Office to Mr. Ashplant.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, September* 22, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant relating to your wish to obtain certain concessions at Cape Juby, and I am to say that its purport will be communicated to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

---

No. 56.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 94.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, September* 23, 1896.

UPON the receipt of your despatch No. 27 of the 21st February last, a communication, of which a copy is inclosed, was addressed to Mr. Ashplant,* and I now transmit, for your information, a copy of his reply,† giving the reasons which have induced him to apply for a concession at Cape Juby.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 57.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 108.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, September* 18, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 78 of the 17th June last, I have the honour to transmit translation of a letter which I have received from the Grand Vizier announcing that the Moorish Government will accept the settlement of the case of Mr. Ehrenbach for a sum of 150*l.* and that orders have been sent to the Governor of Tetuan to forward the money to Cid Mohammed Torres without delay.

I have requested Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke to see that the amount in question is promptly transmitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 57.

*Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(After compliments.)

27 *Rabia I*, 1314 (*September* 7, 1896).

YOUR letter, O friend, containing the reply from the Governor of Tetuan in answer to the Shereefian orders sent to him relative to the robbery of the Englishman, Mr. Ehrenbach, near the gate of Tetuan, has reached me; and to facilitate the settle-

* To Mr. Ashplant, March 14, 1896. † No. 54.

ment you have advised, O favoured one, the handing over of 900 dollars to be sent and paid to their owner, and that renewed orders should be sent to the said Governor that diligent search should be made for the recovery of the postage-stamps on account of their worth and antiquity. I conveyed all this to His Majesty (God grant him victory!) and he approved the settlement out of consideration for you and for the rights of the subjects of your beloved Government, and he has issued a stringent Shereefian order to the Governor of Tetuan charging him to send immediately the above amount to the Naïb Cid Mohammed Torres, who has also been acquainted to accept it from him and pay it to you through his intermediary; and as regards your request, O friend, about the renewal of the orders to proceed with the search for the postage-stamps, if anything should transpire in connection therewith, the Governor has been ordered to inform Cid Mohammed Torres as you have requested. May you remain, &c.

---

## No. 58.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)*

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 19, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 72 of the 4th June last, I have the honour to transmit translation of a letter which I have received from the Grand Vizier relative to my proposal as to the conditions under which the extension of the Mellah at Mogador could be carried out. I am unable to see the harm which would have been caused to the Moorish Government by the adoption of a system of ground-rents, but, as I observed in my above-mentioned despatch, the method suggested was a novelty to them, and is consequently regarded with some suspicion. The proposal of the Vizier to revert to the original settlement is, I fear, unacceptable, as it was found to be unworkable.

I beg leave to transmit copy of a further letter which I have addressed to the Vizier on the subject, in which I have made a counter-proposal, and which is one which the Moorish Government may possibly entertain favourably, though I doubt if they would be satisfied with a 6 per cent. interest on the cost of the building, as although this has been the usual rent demanded for Government property, I was informed when at Court that the Government regarded it as at too low a rent, and intended in future to claim a higher rate.

I am inquiring of Mr. Vice-Consul Johnston what in his opinion is the maximum rent which the Jewish community would be able or willing to bear, so that in case the last proposal is accepted in principle, and objection only made as to the amount of rent, I may be in a position to offer some concession on that point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

*Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(After compliments.) 26 *Rabia I*, 1314 (*September* 6, 1896).

YOUR letter, O friend, about the request made by the former Minister, Sir E. Satow, regarding the extension of the Mogador Mellah, has arrived, and after your speaking about it you were answered in the same manner as he was answered before you, and you have now made a proposal that the Government should grant a site of land for building therein, to be allotted to those desirous of constructing in it, and that the buildings should be the property of the builders, but that the latter should pay a reasonable rent for the right of occupying the ground and to defray the expenses of the wall to be erected by the Government.

And I conveyed all this to His Majesty (whom God exalt), and he understood it, and has ordered me to reply to you, O intelligent one, that since the reception of your letter the Government has been making strenuous efforts to find a way by which you may be satisfied, and by which the prevention of the opening of the gate of harm



may be effected, and no such way has been found to reconcile the two wishes after the exercise of much care and reflection, but the result of it would be the opening of the gate of harm to the Government, which could neither be shut nor drawn to.

Now that which is most suitable and convenient, and which will not harm thus, is by following the terms of the settlement as agreed upon formerly by your predecessor, Sir E. Satow, and if you agree to this, this Government will not cease approving the conditions of the Agreement, and I have no doubt that your Excellency will refrain from wishing intentionally harm to the Government when you have confirmed that such will be so.

Peace.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.*

(After compliments.)

I HAVE received the letter, oh friend, which you wrote to me on the 26 Rabia I, 1314 (6th September, 1896), in regard to the extension of the Mellah at Mogador, and in which you inform me that after much reflection, His Majesty—whom God protect—does not see his way to accepting the proposal I had made, and desires that the settlement originally proposed should be carried out.

You know well that I would not suggest anything that is harmful to the interests of the Moorish Government—this is far from my desire; and I think that my proposal would have been profitable and agreeable to all parties. As I explained to you at Marakesh, oh friend, no one will build on the terms of the original settlement, for would any one incur expenses on a house which, after a short term of years, became the property of another, and on which he would have to pay a rent to this other if he desired still to occupy it.

I am anxious, oh friend, and I know you are equally desirous not to permit the present condition of affairs in the Mellah at Mogador to continue, and I now make the following proposal: that a piece of ground suitable and in a healthy situation be selected, and that the authorities build houses on it, and let these houses at the rate of 6 per cent. on the cost of building and on the cost of erecting a boundary wall round the piece of ground, and, in order that all should be in accordance with the laws of health and good living, I would suggest that a Committee be formed, to consist of two Mussulmans, two Jews, and one Christian, who should decide as to the size of the houses and the number of persons who should inhabit each house, and as to rules as to subletting, so that there may be no hardships on the poorer class, and no over-crowding or excessive rents on subletting. Of course, the houses remain the perpetual property of the Moorish Government, who will gain profit therefrom, and at the same time cause great benefits to the poorer Jewish community, who now live in circumstances pitiable to behold.

I know your intelligence and good heart, and trust you will take this proposal into early and favourable consideration.

And may peace attend you.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 59.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)*

(No. 110. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 19, 1896.

A NATIVE of Tafilet, apparently a man of intelligence, called on me to-day to give me an account of a journey he had recently made from Timbuctoo to Tuat and Tafilet, and thence to Tangier. He stated that he had taken twenty days from Timbuctoo to Tuat, and found the road easy for travelling, well supplied with wells, and the population tranquil and relatively prosperous. He found the Tuat district somewhat agitated by the construction of Fort MacMahon, which he visited, and which he said was garrisoned by three officers and about 100 men. The French, he said, were active in endeavouring to induce the leading men of the Tuat district to favour their interests, promising them Government posts with considerable salaries

when the oasis came under French rule. They had succeeded in gaining over to their cause two important men, Cid Eddin and Hamsa, but had hitherto been unsuccessful in securing the adhesion of Bou Amama, whom my informant appeared to consider the most influential man in those parts. Bou Amama, he stated, lived at Beni Oonif, and had recently prevented the French officials from erecting a fort at a place called Dermal, between Ain Sefra and Figuig.

The traveller further related that the Moorish Government had established a Kaïd, with a guard of twelve soldiers, at Timmimoun, but who was without any authority or position. At first the natives had treated the Kaïd with respect, but of late had entirely neglected him. My informant considered that the population would render no opposition to any French advance, unless encouraged to do so by the above-mentioned Bou Amama.

He reported that neither in Tuat nor in Tafilet were any taxes paid to the Sultan's Government, and that the Shereefian authority in those districts was practically nil.

On his journey from Tafilet, when he entered Morocco proper, he found all the tribes in a disturbed condition, fighting amongst each other, and suffering much from the extortions of the Kaïds. He seemed to consider that, in view of these circumstances, the population in those districts would be very willing to accept any rule which would afford them relief from their present situation. He doubted if they would combine in a general revolt against the Sultan's authority, but would gladly welcome the protection of a more tolerant rule, even if it were a foreign one.

If rumour speaks truly, it would seem that there has been of late a species of Algerian colonization in those parts, by the establishment of several villages, chiefly inhabited by natives of Algeria, and the account of the beneficent results of French rule are actively circulated throughout the districts bordering on the Algerian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 60.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)*

(No. 111. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September 21, 1896.*

THE Spanish Minister spoke to me yesterday as to the probability of Tuat falling before long under French rule, and I inquired of him what view his Government would take of such an event.

M. de Ojéda said that he was not acquainted as yet with the precise views of the Duke of Tetuan, but he had recommended the latter to speak to Señor Moret on the subject, who would be able to give him some interesting information. He had made this suggestion as Señor Moret about two years ago had had a conversation with M. Hanotaux on the subject, and had informed the French Minister that Spain would make no difficulty if the French occupation were limited to Tuat, but that any action taken in districts further north, such as in Tafilet, would bear a different complexion, and would be differently regarded by Spain.

The substance of this conversation Señor Moret had at the time communicated privately to him (M. de Ojéda), and he had therefore thought it best to suggest to the Duke of Tetuan to communicate with Señor Moret.

The Duke had replied that he would beg Señor Moret to pay him a visit at San Sebastian, but he had not learnt whether a meeting had taken place.

M. de Ojéda begged me to consider the above information as strictly confidential.

M. de Ojéda then proceeded to say that he anticipated difficulties in regard to the delimitation of the neutral zone at Melilla, and that the moment might arrive when Spain would have to exercise active pressure on Morocco. He had strongly recommended his Government not to attempt any measures in the warlike and difficult Riff country, but to make their power felt in other places. He thought that an occupation of Tetuan and of the neighbourhood would be an easy matter, and one which would repay the expense of executing it. Moreover, he felt sure that affairs in Cuba would not terminate satisfactorily, and that the Spanish Government would feel it necessary to give some satisfaction to wounded public pride in another direction.

M. de Ojéda said he was sure France would not object to an extension of Spanish



authority in the Tetuan district, and as Tangier would be unaffected, he presumed we should not raise difficulties.

The above conversation was quite informal, and M. de Ojéda was probably rather alluding to future political possibilities than hinting at any settled programme, but it may be that in the interview between Señor Moret and M. Hanotaux some understanding was arrived at in case the French occupation of Tuat should become a fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 61.

*Foreign Office to Mr. R. Ehrenbach.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 6, 1896.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 6th June last relating to the robbery of your property near Tetuan, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on this subject.

Sir A. Nicolson reports that he has received a letter from the Grand Vizier announcing that the Moorish Government will accept the settlement of your claim for a sum of 150*l.*, and that orders have been sent to the Governor of Tetuan to forward the money to Si Mohammed Torres without delay.

Her Majesty's Minister adds that he has requested the British Vice-Consul at the above-mentioned place to see that the amount in question is promptly transmitted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

---

No. 62.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)*

(No. 31.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October 7, 1896.*

THE Tuat question has been lately revived by the French Legation, and the Moorish Government have addressed a communication to the French Chargé d'Affaires stating their intention to appeal to foreign Powers to settle question by arbitration in case France insists on their claim. The above information has been obtained from a trustworthy source.

---

No. 63.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)*

(No. 32.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October 7, 1896.*

TUAT: With reference to my telegram No. 31, I have been informed by Spanish Minister that he has received information similar to that contained in above-mentioned telegram. He has further heard that an intimation was given in Moorish note that any act of aggression would be opposed by vigorous resistance in case of a refusal on part of France to submit question to arbitration. It is doubtful whether any threats were made use of.

---

No. 64.

*Mr. Ehrenbach to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 8.)

*May Lodge, 4, Upper Avenue Road, N.W., October* 7, 1896.

My Lord,

I BEG to own receipt of your communication, dated the 6th October, contents of which I have noted satisfaction and best thanks.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT EHRENBACH.

---

No. 65.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 33.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 9, 1896.

A PIRATICAL act of a grave nature has taken place on the Riff coast. A French sailing-boat has been attacked, and a Spanish steamer, which had gone to lend assistance, was repulsed, four of her crew being killed, and several wounded. A sailor, belonging to the French vessel, was also killed.

It is reported that the French captain and two sailors have been made captives.

---

No. 66.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 112.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 30, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 94 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to transmit under flying seal, accompanied with a translation, a letter to the Vizier, stating that Mr. Ashplant is desirous of opening a place of business at Cape Juby, and applying for a site on which to erect premises. This letter is in identic terms with that furnished to Messrs. Afriat, and I beg leave to send it through your Lordship's Office, as Mr. Ashplant has not applied directly to this Legation.

In regard to the intimation conveyed in Mr. Ashplant's letter to your Lordship of the 19th instant, that he proposes to export horses and sheep, I may remark that such export is prohibited in Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 66.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed Bey Moussa.*

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Tangier, September* 30, 1896.

MR. ASHPLANT, of London, an Englishman, is desirous of opening trade at Cape Juby, and in accordance with the terms of Article 6 of the Agreement signed the 13th March, 1895, between your Excellency and my predecessor, I give this letter to Mr. Ashplant, in order that a piece of ground may be allotted to him under the conditions stipulated in the above-mentioned Article.

Peace.

---



No. 67.

*Foreign Office to Mr. D. Ashplant.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 22nd ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith a letter,* accompanied by a translation, which Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has addressed to the Grand Vizier stating that you are desirous of opening a place of business at Cape Juby, and applying on your behalf for a site on which to erect premises.

Sir A. Nicolson, in forwarding this communication to you for transmission to its destination, points out that the exportation of horses and sheep, to which you refer in your letter of the 19th instant, is prohibited in Morocco.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

---

No. 68.

*Foreign Office to Mr. L. Emanuel.*

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 3rd July last, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state, for the confidential information of your Committee, that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, forwarding a copy of a communication, herewith inclosed, from the Grand Vizier† relative to Sir A. Nicolson's proposal as to the conditions under which the extension of the Mellah at Mogador could be carried out.

Her Majesty's Minister states, with reference to this matter, that he is unable to see the harm which would have been caused to the Moorish Government by the adoption of a system of ground-rents; but as he had already observed, the method suggested was a novelty to them, and was consequently regarded with some suspicion.

The proposal of the Vizier to revert to the original settlement is, Her Majesty's Minister fears, unacceptable, as it was found to be unworkable.

He forwards a copy of a further letter, herewith inclosed, which he has addressed to the Vizier on this subject,‡ in which he has made a counter-proposal which he thinks the Moorish Government may possibly entertain favourably, though he doubts whether they will be satisfied with interest at 6 per cent. on the cost of the building, as although this has been the usual rent demanded for Government property, he was informed when at Court that the Government regarded it as too low, and intended in future to claim a higher rate.

Sir A. Nicolson adds that he is inquiring of the British Vice-Consul at Mogador what, in his opinion, is the maximum rent which the Jewish community would be able or willing to bear, so that in case the last proposal which he has made is accepted in principle, and objection only made to the amount of rent, he may be in a position to offer some concession on that point.

Lord Salisbury proposes to approve the action which has been taken by Sir A. Nicolson in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

---

No. 69.

*Consul Finn to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 15.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord, *Malaga, October* 9, 1896.

NEWS has been received here that on the 7th instant the Spanish steamer "Sevilla" which left here for Melilla perceived a French ship, the "Propercorin," lying in Cebadillo Bay near Alhucemas, making signals of distress, and on nearing her found

* No. 66. † Inclosure 1 in No. 58. ‡ Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

that she was being attacked by Moorish pirates from the Riff coast belonging to the Boscoya tribe, and therefore went to her aid.

The "Sevilla" commenced by giving chase to a boat which turned out to have five French prisoners on board, and also to certain others which were carrying off stolen articles. She then approached the French boat when the Moors on it, as well as those on shore and in the boats, proceeded to open fire upon here, killing a soldier belonging to the African regiment and one of their own number who had been captured by the Spaniards, and wounding a Cuban prisoner, Don Oscar de los Reyes, who was being taken into exile, and has since died, and three seamen.

The "Sevilla," on the other hand, succeeded in capturing twelve Moorish boats and some prisoners.

According to further information received, the Captain of the French boat is a prisoner in the hands of the Moors with one of his crew. A demand has therefore been presented to the native Chiefs to surrender him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALEXANDER FINN.

---

## No. 70.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 113. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 7, 1896.

I WAS informed yesterday, from a source which I consider trustworthy, that a correspondence has recently been passing between the Moorish Government and the French Legation in regard to Tuat. The French authorities, according to my informant, had commenced digging some wells in the neighbourhood of Timmimoun, and that the work had been interfered with by the Moorish Kaid at that place. The French Legation had thereupon addressed a remonstrance to the Moorish Government, stating that Tuat formed a portion of Algerian territory, and that the Moorish officials should be careful as to interfering in the affairs of that district.

The Moorish Government have now sent a reply through Cid Mohammed Torres, which was communicated to the French Legation yesterday. In this document the Moorish Government state that they possess written records, dating back to the time of Sultan Muley Swain, who I am told reigned some 200 years ago, which prove that Tuat has without intermission formed part of the Moorish dominions, and that they decline to admit any claim of France to that province.

The note further states that the Moorish Government will never cede to a foreign Power Tuat, or any portion of the oasis, and if France continues to insist on her claim that they will appeal to the foreign Powers to arbitrate on the question.

I should much doubt, from the short experience I have had of the manner in which Moorish archives are preserved, whether records of such antiquity are producible; or if they were, that they would conclusively prove the case of the Moorish Government.

The Moorish Government, so far as I am aware, has not addressed itself on this recent development of the question to any foreign Representative, but Cid Mohammed Torres, who was on the point of leaving for Tetuan, has been ordered to postpone his departure till some solution of the matter has been discovered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 71.

*Sir A Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 114. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 7, 1896.

THE Spanish Minister asked me to-day whether I had heard of some communications which had recently passed between the Moorish Government and the French Legation in regard to Tuat, and on my replying in the affirmative, M. de Ojéda gave me the substance of the information which had reached him, and which agreed with



that reported to your Lordship in my immediately preceding despatch. The only difference in the reports which had been furnished to M. de Ojéda and myself, was that the informant of my Spanish colleague stated that the Moorish note intimated in its concluding sentences, that should the French Government decline to submit the question to arbitration, the Moorish Government would consider itself at liberty to employ all means in its power to resist aggression. I much doubt if such a threat were, in reality, contained in the note, and on further inquiry of my informant it would appear that such was not the case.

M. de Ojéda agreed with me that it was extremely improbable that the French Government would submit the Tuat question to arbitration, and he considered that the suggestion of such a solution would probably hasten the occupation, and leave the Moorish Government to deal with an accomplished fact as best they might. It is difficult to forecast the possible action of the Moorish Government in such an eventuality, but I should doubt if they would be disposed to take any serious steps, even admitting that they were in a position to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 72.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 115.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 9, 1896.

THE Spanish Minister informed me to-day that he had received several telegrams from the Governor of Melilla, reporting a serious piratical attack off the Riff coast, in the neighbourhood of Alhucemas.

It appears that a French sailing-vessel, on her voyage in ballast from Cadiz to Algiers, was becalmed off the Riff coast, and was attacked by several boats of pirates. A small Spanish steamer which runs between Malaga, Alhucemas, and Melilla, chanced to come upon the scene at the moment, and noticing a boat pulling ashore, intercepted it. The Riffians in the boat jumped overboard and swam to the shore, and the steamer took on board three or four French sailors who were in the boat. She then proceeded to the sailing-vessel, which was surrounded by Riff boats, and on her approach the latter took shelter behind the sailing-vessel and opened a heavy fire on the steamer. Four sailors on board were killed, and some wounded, amongst the latter one of the French sailors, who subsequently died.

The steamer being quite unarmed, was unable to rescue the captain and the other French sailors who were still on the sailing-vessel, and, consequently, put in at Alhucemas to land the wounded, and then steamed to Melilla to acquaint the authorities with the occurrence.

The authorities at Alhucemas were powerless to render any assistance, having only a rowing-boat at their disposal.

The sailing-vessel, it is said, drifted to the eastward with the current, and as the Riff boats left her, it is feared that they have carried off her captain and remaining crew into captivity.

This act of piracy is a very grave one, and both the Spanish and French Legations have made strong representations to the Moorish authorities.

I will inform your Lordship later of the further development of the affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 73.

*Sir G. Bonham to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 230.)
My Lord, *San Sebastian, October* 14, 1896.

AS alarmist telegrams are being published in the Spanish press respecting the act of piracy on the coast of Morocco, which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 228 of the 12th instant, and the action which will consequently be taken by the Governments of Spain and France, I took the opportunity to-day of

asking the French Chargé d'Affaires as to their truth. M. Pasteur stated that the only action as yet taken by the French Government has been to send a torpedo-catcher, the "d'Herville," from Toulon to Alhucemas. The Captain will take charge of the master of the French vessel when the exchange has been effected, and will report on the situation generally, after which an indemnity will be demanded.

The Spanish Government will also demand an indemnity, three Spanish subjects having been killed, in addition to one French subject; but nothing has yet been said about a joint demand of the two Powers.

The Duke of Tetuan, to whom I have also spoken on the subject, assures me that the matter has been greatly exaggerated, and that it is of no importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BONHAM.

---

No. 74.

*Conjoint Jewish Committee to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, 36, *Finsbury Circus, London, October* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 14th instant, in which you are good enough to communicate, for the confidential information of my Committee, a copy of a despatch you have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier as to the proposed extension of the Mellah at Mogador. I have, on behalf of my Board, to tender to your Lordship their best thanks for the action that has been taken under your Lordship's direction by Sir Arthur Nicolson, and to express the hope that it may conduce to a satisfactory settlement of the question of the Mellah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEWIS EMANUEL,
*Solicitor and Secretary.*

---

No. 75.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 12, 1896.

THE Vice-Consul at Tetuan reports the death in the prison of that town of Sid Hadj Elmati Jamai, who was Grand Vizier at the time of the death of the late Sultan, Mulai Hassan, and was dismissed, together with his brother, Sid Mohamed Saghir, Minister for War, and cast into prison by the present Sultan in July 1894, on the charge of plotting to place the Sultan's uncle on the Throne. Sid Mohamed Saghir continues in prison at Tetuan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 76.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 100.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 109 of the 19th ultimo in regard to the proposed extension of the Mellah at Mogador.

I approve your proceedings in the matter, and I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter from the Conjoint Jewish Committee, to which the substance of your despatch was communicated.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

* No. 74.



No. 77.

*Mr. H. Gurney to Foreign Office.*—(*Received October* 24.)

Dear Sir Thomas Sanderson, *Nutwood, Reigate, October* 22, 1896.

ON the 9th March last the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society sent a Memorial to Lord Salisbury, calling his attention to the increased number of public sales of slaves in the coast towns of Morocco, and expressing the opinion that the Mission of his Excellency Sir Arthur Nicolson to the Sultan's Court was an opportunity of impressing on His Majesty the desirability of taking steps for the abolition of the Slave Trade in Morocco and for the closing of the slave markets in the towns of that country not to be lost. You kindly wrote a reply on behalf of Lord Salisbury, to the effect that his Lordship would not fail to instruct Sir A. Nicolson to bear the subject in mind, and to take any favourable opportunity of acting on the instructions given to his predecessors in Morocco.

At the last meeting of the Committee of the Society, their attention was again called to fresh sales of slaves in the open markets of the coast towns, and it was decided to ask Lord Salisbury how far Sir Arthur Nicolson had been able to carry out the above instructions.

While the Committee hesitated to make any addition to the work at the Foreign Office, which must be so great at the present time, they feel that no opportunity should be lost of endeavouring to stop the continued Traffic in Slaves in Morocco, and I venture, therefore, before a formal representation is made, to address a private letter to you first.

I do this the more readily, because I have received several letters on the subject from persons with whom I am acquainted, who are inhabitants of the coast towns, and who are eye-witnesses of what goes on. They evidently look to the Society as the only channel through which the attention of Her Majesty's Government can be drawn to the continued scandal of the public sale of slaves, and I should be grateful for any information as to steps having been taken to put a stop to it that you may feel at liberty to favour me with.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY GURNEY.

---

No. 78.

*Mr. H. D. Thackrah to Foreign Office.*—(*Received October* 24.)

32, *Woodberry Grove, Finsbury Park, London,*
Sir, *October*, 23, 1896.

SEEING the report *re* Riff pirates (as per inclosed extract) in several papers, and as I am somewhat interested in the matter, I should feel greatly obliged if you would kindly inform me whether there is any foundation for that report, and whether there is any further news on the matter.

Thanking you in anticipation, I have, &c.
(Signed) HAROLD D. THACKRAH.

---

Inclosure in No. 78.

*Newspaper Extract, dated Gibraltar, October* 17, 1896.

THE master of a British felucca, "Joven Enrique," bound for Oran, which has arrived here, reports having been compelled to put into Gibraltar in consequence of his vessel having been boarded by Riff pirates near Cape Negro on the 12th instant.

The pirates carried away her cargo, consisting of old metal and 1,000 dollars in cash, but the crew were not maltreated, as they offered no resistance.—*Daily News, October* 19, 1896.

---

## No. 79.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)*

(No. 117.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 14, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 115 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister informs me that four or five Riffians engaged in the attack on the French sailing-vessel were captured by the Spanish steamer in the small boat which was intercepted while rowing ashore.

The French Government have asked as a special favour that one of the Riff prisoners should be exchanged against the French captain, who is still captive, and from what I gathered from M. de Ojéda, the Spanish Government will accede to the request, it being understood that the French Government will take the responsibility for this measure and explain matters to the Moorish Government.

It would appear that the Riffians themselves suggested the exchange. The Riff prisoners have been sent to Malaga, and the abandoned sailing-vessel was discovered by a British steamer and taken to Almeria. In the boat was a French sailor who had concealed himself in the hold and thus escaped from being carried into captivity.

The total losses have been four Spaniards and one Frenchman killed, and two Spaniards wounded, and one Frenchman taken prisoner.

Neither the Spanish nor French Legation has as yet presented claims for indemnity, but the Spanish Minister informs me that his Government will probably demand 1,000*l.* for the family of each man killed, and something for the wounded men. These indemnities will, doubtless, be paid by the Moorish Government, but the actual perpetrators of the piratical act, beyond those in prison, will not be affected in any way by these claims or payments, and unless some lesson is administered to them, will be much encouraged by their recent success, especially when they are able to procure the freedom of one of their party by an exchange of prisoners, which will probably lead them to consider themselves in some measure as recognized belligerents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 80.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)*

(No. 118.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 17, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 108 of the 18th September, I have the honour to report that the Moorish Government have paid 900 dollars in settlement of the claim of Mr. Ehrenbach on account of the robbery of his effects and those of his guide near Tetuan in 1894.

The loss incurred by the guide of Mr. Ehrenbach was stated to be to the value of 12*l.*, or about 62 dollars; but I am inclined to think that the man would be amply compensated by a sum of 50 dollars, which has been paid to him. The muleteer also lost his mule, an item which appears to have been omitted in the statement of claim, and for which it is but just that he should receive some compensation. I have given him thirty dollars, thus leaving 820 dollars, or, at the present rate of exchange of 23¾ per cent., 132*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* due to Mr. Ehrenbach, and I beg leave to inclose a cheque for that amount. I trust your Lordship will approve of this distribution, which appears to me to meet the circumstances of the case as fairly as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



## No. 81.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)*

(No. 119.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 18, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 117 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report that a French man-of-war has arrived here with instructions to place herself at the disposal of the French Legation in connection with the recent piratical attack on a French sailing-vessel. The French Chargé d'Affaires desires to retain the vessel here till he is assured of the safety of the French captain, who is still in captivity, as he fears that the appearance of a vessel of war off the Riff coast might induce the Riffians to take vengeance on their prisoner.

There has, unfortunately, arisen a fresh difficulty in regard to the exchange of the captain. The latter has passed from the hands of one tribe into those of another, and these desire the liberation of a Riffian prisoner other than the one suggested originally. Further delay is thus caused, and fresh negotiations are taking place.

The French Legation has not received hitherto any instructions as to the demands which it is to present on account of the piratical attack. The question with which the French authorities are at present exclusively occupied is the liberation of the French captain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 82.

*Messrs. Dehn and Heine to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)*

My Lord, 47, *Newton Street, Manchester, October* 26, 1896.

REFERRING to our letters of the 29th June and the 8th August last and to your Lordship's replies dated the 11th July and the 7th August, we take the liberty to call your attention to the inclosed cutting from the "Manchester Guardian" of to-day, from which it would appear that the Moorish Government has recognized the claims that were made by Her Majesty's Representatives on our behalf after the disturbances at Mzab.

If we interpret the paragraph correctly, we would suppose that the money will be paid to Her Majesty's Representative at Tangiers or Dar-al-Baida, and we would respectfully suggest that immediate instructions be given to Her Majesty's Representatives not to hand over to the Moorish merchants the amounts paid by the Moorish Government, but to hold them, pending arrangement being made with the Moors to have the money handed over to us.

The amounts in question are:—

| | £ | *s.* | *d.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mohammed El Hartzi El Slavi .. .. .. .. | 1,287 | 9 | 4 |
| Mohammed Tassi .. .. .. .. .. | 115 | 9 | 0 |
| Dres Kotoni .. .. .. .. .. .. | 51 | 18 | 11 |

We are, &c.

(Signed) B. A. DEHN AND HEINE.

---

Inclosure in No. 82.

*Newspaper Extract.*

THE Sultan has issued a Circular to the foreign Representatives, expressing regret at the late troubles in the Mzab district, when the town of that name was looted, and stating that he is sending assessors to the region in question. His Shercefian Majesty at the same time intimates his willingness to pay the claims of the Europeans in full.

---

No. 83.

*Foreign Office to Mr. R. Ehrenbach.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 28, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 6th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that his Lordship has received a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, stating that the Moorish Government have paid 900 dollars in settlement of the claim made on account of the robbery of your effects and those of your guide near Tetuan in 1894.

The loss incurred by the guide was stated to be to the value of 12*l.*, or about 62 dollars, but Sir A. Nicolson is of opinion that a sum of 50 dollars would amply compensate him, and this has, therefore, been paid to him.

The muleteer also lost his mule—an item which appears to have been omitted in the statement of claim, and Sir A. Nicolson has accordingly given him 30 dollars on this account, as it is only just that he should receive some compensation for the loss. This leaves 820 dollars, or, at the present rate of exchange of 23¾ per cent., 132*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* due to you, and I am to inclose a cheque for that amount.

The distribution thus made by Government seems to Lord Salisbury to be equitable, and his Lordship, therefore, proposes to express his approval of Sir A. Nicolson's action in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

---

No. 84.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October* 29.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 21, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a note addressed to me by the Spanish Minister, requesting me to prohibit British subjects from distributing and selling a Spanish journal whose circulation in Tangier has been forbidden by the Spanish Legation. I beg leave also to transmit copies of two numbers of the paper in question, which have been forwarded to me by M. de Ojéda.*

I am most desirous of meeting the wishes of M. de Ojéda so far as I am permitted to do, both on account of the serious difficulties with which I know he has to contend in controlling a colony of some 6,000 persons, many of whom are turbulent characters, and also because it is undesirable that the precautionary measures which he may think necessary to enact should be rendered nugatory by one outside his jurisdiction. His authority over his colony is thereby discredited, and his task rendered more difficult.

The only Articles of the Morocco Order in Council under which it seems to me that proceedings could be taken against the British subject who is selling and distributing the journal are Articles 136 and, possibly, 41, but I presume I should have to be satisfied that a breach of the public peace is likely to be caused by the action of the British subject. So far as I can judge, the tone and contents of the articles which have been communicated to me appear hardly to justify such an apprehension.

On the other hand, the Spanish Minister, who is in a far better position than myself to estimate the effect likely to be produced among his colony by the dissemination of the journal, is of a different opinion, and considers that serious consequences may ensue, consequences which it would be difficult, if not impossible, for him to control. He has, in support of this view, pointed out to me that in Spain, where there is an executive power far better able to secure the maintenance of order than is the case at Tangier, it has been found necessary to prohibit the distribution of certain numbers of the paper, and that at Valencia disturbances actually occurred owing to the journal having instigated the public to discourage the dispatch of troops to Cuba.

I have assured M. de Ojéda of my desire to meet his wishes so far as I legitimately could, but that I am unable to step outside of the limits of the authority granted to me by the Order in Council. The course which the Spanish Legation might pursue would be to bring an action against the British subject for conduct

* Not printed.



likely to cause tumult or disorder, that it would have to be proved that he had distributed and sold a paper containing matter which, in the opinion of the Court, was likely to lead to such disturbance, and that then I might be in a position to bind the individual over to keep the peace. I told him frankly that I doubted if what had appeared in these journals he had communicated to me would constitute a sufficient ground for a successful action, and that, unless the action were successful, it would be far better to take none at all.

M. de Ojéda agreed with this latter view, and asked me whether I would inquire of my Government if his letter to me would, in view of the very exceptional conditions existing at Tangier, be a sufficient authority to justify me in assuming that the public peace would be endangered by the continuance of the sale of the paper, and whether it would be necessary for the Spanish Legation to prosecute the individual. M. de Ojéda seemed to consider that, on the strength of his note to me, I might summon the individual before me and bind him over to keep the peace without requiring the formalities of a regular judicial proceeding.

I told M. de Ojéda that I would be happy to submit the whole case to your Lordship, and I should feel very grateful if your Lordship could give me some guidance in the matter, as, while very anxious to be agreeable to my Spanish colleague, I am unwilling to take any action which may not be legally justifiable.

Under Article 136 of the Order in Council, the case would have to be tried before me as Consul-General, with an appeal to the Privy Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 84.

*M. de Ojéda to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 12.) *Legacion de España en Tanger,*
M. le Ministre et cher Collègue, *le* 15 *Octobre,* 1896.

UN journal dont les articles sont inspirés par les sentiments les plus violemment anarchiques et dont le but est de battre en brèche toutes les institutions de notre Monarchie en poussant le peuple au mépris des lois, des autorités, et même à la rébellion contre les dispositions patriotiques qu'adopte le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté afin de pourvoir à la défense de l'intégrité territoriale, a été publié en Espagne sous le titre de la "Conciencia Libre."

Ce journal, que nos lois empêchent de circuler dans la péninsule, mais que la lenteur des procédés judiciaires ne peut empêcher d'arriver aux bureaux de poste avant la dénonciation officielle, a fait son apparition à Tanger, et a été colporté par les affiliés Anarchistes, qui malheureusement, quoique en petit nombre, existent dans notre Colonie. Aussitôt, en vertu des pourvoirs que le Gouvernement m'a conférés, j'ai arrêté la circulation du journal en question.

Cependant, les individus intéressés à fomenter le désordre dans notre Colonie, se sont empressés d'éluder mes dispositions en se servant des offices spontanément offerts au journal dans une lettre insultante pour les autorités Espagnoles à Tanger, d'un Sieur Hanglin, sujet Britannique, qui malgré certaines remontrances et des avis réitérés, a déclaré être plus que jamais disposé à braver les lois et les autorités Espagnoles à Tanger en invoquant les immunités de sa nationalité Britannique. Il a donc continué à recevoir et à faire circuler le dit journal, dont le dernier numéro que j'ai l'honneur de vous remettre, annonce même un numéro extraordinaire du plus palpitant intérêt et des commentaires prochaines sur la conduite des autorités Espagnoles à Tanger.

Or, vous savez comme moi, M. le Ministre et cher collègue, les éléments dont se compose notre Colonie, le danger qu'il y a pour l'Espagne ainsi que pour tous les habitants de Tanger, à exciter les passions, les instincts de révolte, et la perversité des gens sans aveu dans un pays où aucune Légation n'a les éléments de répression qui rendent possible dans nos pays l'exercice de certaines libertés.

Vous savez aussi que la licence dans la presse exercée dans des pays où fonctionnent tous les rouages des institutions destinées à en enrager les effets pernicieux, ne saurait sans détriment de la solidarité des intérêts moraux qui unissent nos deux pays au Maroc, surtout, s'exercer à Tanger au point de permettre à un sujet Britannique de mettre à néant les prescriptions et les Ordonnances rédigées en vue d'un

intérêt général et de braver en même temps les autorités destinées à les appliquer et dont le prestige auprès de ses administrés ne peut que souffrir, et a déjà souffert considérablement d'un tel état de choses.

C'est donc, M. le Ministre et cher collègue, en vue de ces considérations, afin d'éviter les maux croissants que la circulation du journal mentionné cause dès ce moment dans notre Colonie et qui m'ont été déjà dénoncés, ainsi que dans le but de prévenir des désordres sensibles que je ne serais pas en état de réprimer, et qui nous affecteraient tous, que je vous demande de faire intervenir votre autorité auprès des sujets Britanniques qui, en bravant nos lois et nos dispositions se rendent complices de ces désordres, et de vouloir bien leur prohiber la vente et la circulation de la "Conciencia Libre" ou de toute autre publication qui, au jugement des autorités Espagnoles à Tanger, serait de nature à troubler l'ordre dans notre Colonie.

En vous remerciant d'avance des dispositions que vous voudrez prendre à ce sujet, je vous réitère, &c.

(Signé) EMILIO DE OJÉDA.

---

No. 85.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 121.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 22, 1896.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BEWICKE has reported to me that Francisco Gomez, master of the British felucca "Joven Enrique," stated to him on the 13th instant that while his vessel was becalmed on the 12th instant between Ceuta and Cape Negro, she was boarded by a boat belonging to a certain Tosso of Tetuan, manned by five armed Moors. These men carried off 1,100 dollars in money and fourteen sacks of old cartridge cases. The money had been intrusted to him by the owner to purchase grain at Oran, and the cargo was also destined for that port. Gomez was asked for a fuller statement, but said that he would prefer making it at Gibraltar.

There are several suspicious circumstances connected with this case, on which I will report later to your Lordship, and after I have received the statements which Gomez will depose at Gibraltar. I merely mention the matter now to your Lordship, as the Spanish and Tangier press have alluded to what is termed a fresh act of piracy, and it is possible that some exaggerated and inaccurate statements may get abroad.

Mr. Bewicke informs me that the above-mentioned Tosso is head of a band of smugglers, and is an Italian subject or under Italian protection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 86.

*Mr. R. Ehrenbach to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received October* 30.)

*May Lodge, 4, Upper Avenue Road, London,*

My Lord, *October* 29, 1896.

I HAVE to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your yesterday's favour, inclosing cheque for 132*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* in settlement of my claim on account of the robbery of my effects.

I note that you have settled direct the claims of the guide and the muleteer, for which I am obliged.

It only now remains for me to thank your Lordship and Sir A. Nicolson for the trouble taken over this matter, and to remain, your obedient servant,

(Signed) ROBERT EHRENBACH.

---



No. 87.

*Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.*

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant in regard to the reported payment by the Moorish Government of the claims of European merchants for the losses which they sustained during the late disturbances at Mzab.

No such report has been as yet received by this Department, but Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier will be furnished with a copy of your letter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

---

No. 88.

*Foreign Office to Mr. Thackrah.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, inquiring whether there is any truth in a report which has appeared in the newspapers with regard to the stoppage and boarding of the British felucca "Joven Enrique" by Riff pirates.

I am to say, in reply, that a despatch was received yesterday from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, from which it appears that the master of the above-mentioned vessel had informed the British Vice-Consul at Tehran that while becalmed on the 12th instant between Ceuta and Cape Negro she was boarded by a boat belonging to a certain Tasso of Tetuan, manned by five armed Moors.

These men, according to the master's statement, carried off 1,100 dollars in money and fourteen sacks of old cartridge cases. The money had been intrusted to the master by the owner to purchase grain at Oran, and the cargo was also destined for that port.

On the master being asked for fuller details, he said that he would prefer giving them at Gibraltar.

Her Majesty's Minister promises a further report on this matter, and adds that Tasso is said to be head of a band of smugglers, and to be an Italian subject or under Italian protection.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

---

No. 89.

*Foreign Office to Mr. H. Gurney.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1896.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Salisbury your letter of the 22nd instant, stating that the attention of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society has been drawn to fresh instances of the sales of slaves in the open markets of the coast towns of Morocco, and inquiring what steps have been taken to put a stop to this practice.

I am to say, in reply, that a copy of your communication will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier for his observations.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

---

No. 90.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 3.)

(No. 122.)
*Tangier, October* 24, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 119 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report that the French captain who was taken prisoner by the Riffs has been released unconditionally, and has arrived here on board a French cruiser. The French Legation employed the services of a Shereef who happened to be in Tangier, and who enjoys, apparently, considerable spiritual influence among the Riff tribes, to negotiate the freedom of the captive, and he was able to effect it without the demand of an exchange of prisoners being insisted upon. The captain appears to have been well treated, and to have suffered no more hardships than a compulsory residence among savage tribes would necessarily entail.

The French Chargé d'Affaires tells me that he has suggested to the Spanish Minister that, in consequence of the action of the Riffs in the matter of the release of the French captain, the Riff prisoners in the hands of the Spanish authorities may be treated with leniency, a suggestion which I gathered from the Spanish Minister was not likely to be very favourably viewed by his Government, as four Spaniards lost their lives in endeavouring to rescue the French boat from the hands of the pirates.

The French Chargé d'Affaires further told me that he thinks his Government will limit their demands to some moderate and reasonable compensation from the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 91.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 3.)

(No. 123.)
*Tangier, October* 24, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 93 of the 26th July, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note which I have received from the Grand Vizier in reply to my communication relative to the losses indirectly incurred by British merchants during the recent disturbances in the M'zab district. I understand that a similar communication has been addressed to the other Legations who presented claims arising out of the same difficulties.

It may be as well to await the further communication which the Grand Vizier promises to make on the subject; and from the tenor of the note it would appear that the Moorish Government is not disinclined to make some compensation to those who have suffered losses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 91.

*Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)
26 *Rabea II*, 1314 (*October* 5, 1896).

YOUR letter has reached, oh friend, referring to the losses of some of your merchants in the recent affair at M'Zab, and a statement of the amount of the losses, requesting that measures be taken to attend to their arrangement, &c.

I am aware of this, and on bringing it to the notice of His Majesty—the victorious in God—he ordered me—may God exalt him—to reply to you, oh intelligent friend, with a statement of the regret of the Government and its pain thereat, as this occurrence is contrary to the anxiety of the Government to protect the merchants of your friendly nation resident in this Empire—the happy—and its attention to the guarding of their property; but this will not affect nor alter the proved good relations



and regard between the two friendly nations. Under all circumstances, the Government—God exalt it—had already given its attention and care, before receipt of your letter, to attending to the matter of the losses of your merchants in that place, so that the affair may end in a manner satisfactory to both sides, and on the completion of the desired action about it, you will be informed of the result—with God's help.

May you remain, &c,
(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

---

No. 92.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 105.)
*Foreign Office, November* 3, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 46 of the 12th April last relating to the Slave Trade in Morocco, I transmit to you a copy of a letter received from Mr. Henry Gurney,* stating that the attention of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society has been drawn to fresh sales of slaves in the open market of the coast towns of that country, and inquiring what steps have been taken to put a stop to this practice.

I should be glad to receive any observations which you may have to offer on this communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 93.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 106.)
*Foreign Office, November* 3, 1896.

Sir,

THE substance of your despatch No. 118 of the 17th instant was communicated to Mr. Ehrenbach, and I transmit to you a copy of his reply acknowledging the cheque in settlement of his claim, and thanking you for the trouble which you have taken in this matter.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 94.

*British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 4.)

*55, New Broad Street, London, November* 3, 1896.

My Lord,

THE attention of this Society has been directed by private letters from Morocco, and by Notices in organs of the press of that country, to the fact that a considerable activity in the Slave Trade has of late been developed, more particularly in respect to the public sale of slaves in the sea-port towns of Morocco, a scandal to which a stop had been put by the late Sir John Hay some years ago.

The Committee would therefore urge upon your Lordship the desirability of immediate steps being taken to prevent the disgraceful public sale of human beings in the streets of the towns, and also for obtaining from the Sultan a Treaty for abolishing the Slave Trade throughout his dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. H. ALLEN, *Secretary.*

---

* No. 77.

† No. 86.

No. 95.

*Foreign Office to British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 7, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant on the subject of the alleged public sale of slaves in the sea-port towns of Morocco.

In reply, I am to state that on the receipt of a recent letter of a similar nature from Mr. Henry Gurney, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier was instructed to furnish a report on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

---

No. 96.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 110.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 9, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 120 of the 21st ultimo, relative to a request which you have received from the Spanish Minister at Tangier, that you will prohibit British subjects from distributing and selling a Spanish journal, the circulation of which in Tangier has been forbidden by the Spanish Government.

In reply to your request to be furnished with instructions for your guidance in this matter, I would, in the first place, point out that the "public peace" and "public order" referred to in Article 41 of the Morocco Order in Council, which you quote, are the peace and order of Morocco, to which alone the Order in Council applies, and are not the "public peace" and "public order" of Spain or other places outside the territorial limits of Morocco.

In the case to which the Spanish Minister refers, a British subject has apparently been committing acts, and has been privy to publications which are possibly calculated to disturb the public peace and order of Spain, but which cannot—so far as can be seen—be held to endanger the public peace of Morocco to such an extent as to justify the interference of the British Consular Court.

It does not appear to me that you can, under the terms of the Article referred to, render any assistance to M. de Ojéda, unless it be proved that there is reasonable ground to anticipate a grave disturbance of the public order, or a breach of the public peace of Morocco.

It is, moreover, under Article 136, rather than Article 41, that a British subject publishing an objectionable newspaper would most properly be dealt with, but here again it cannot, in my opinion, be reasonably argued that a British subject, by assisting in the publication of a newspaper which is calculated to excite tumult or disorder in Spain (assuming that it be so calculated), is likely to excite enmity between himself and the Government of Morocco, or between the Government of Morocco and its subjects.

I have therefore come to the conclusion that, as the matter at present stands, you should inform the Spanish Minister that, although desirous of assisting him as far as is in your power, that you regret that you are unable to issue the prohibition he desires.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 97.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Tangier. October* 30, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting the arrival at Saffi of a number of prisoners



said to have been implicated in the murder of the German subject Rockstrohe, in April of last year.

The German Chargé d'Affaires tells me that he will instruct the German Vice-Consul at Saffi to attend the trial, simply to report upon the proceedings, and he trusted that the Moorish authorities would communicate the sentence to his Legation. Baron de Bussche did not seem to think that the penalty of death would be inflicted, as by Moorish traditions the payment of an indemnity absolved the criminals from suffering the extreme sentence of the law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above the English local paper has published the inclosed report of the results of the trial. The German Chargé d'Affaires informs me that the account is quite accurate, and that he does not know what view his Government will take of the sentence.

A. N.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

*Consul Maclean to Sir A Nicolson.*

(No. 83.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, October* 26, 1896.

I HAVE received information that a Commissioner, named Si Hamed Kerdoodi, has arrived at Saffi in charge of seven men, and Kaïd Abdelaziz-bel-Arbi, who are accused of being implicated in the murder of the German subject Rockstrohe in April of last year.

Two other natives, said to be also implicated, have reached the same place from Mogador, and a further two or three are expected there from Mazagan.

It is believed in Saffi that some of these prisoners will be executed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

*Extract from "Al Moghreb ul Aksa" ("Tangier Chronicle") of October* 31, 1896.

*Saffi, October* 24.—The Arab prisoners connected with the Rockstrohe murder, for some time since imprisoned at Mazagan and Mogador, having also been sent here under Government escort, our Governor, Sid Hamza, in the presence of two Adools, the F'kay Sid Hamed El Kerdoody, from the *Dar M'khzen*, and M. Carl Schrader, representing German interests, held a court this morning, all the men concerned in the outrage, including the Kaïd Seeba and the Kadi of the district where the murder was perpetrated, being brought from the prison for *trial* and sentence at the hands of the Moorish Government officials.

The defendants numbered sixteen in all, and were carefully adorned with iron anklets.

The Kaïd of Saffi and the F'kay Kerkoody having produced their books, and named the men, Abdelaziz, the Kaïd Seba of the Gharbia of Dukalla, was interrogated as to his reasons for failing to arrest the people concerned, and replied, "that at that time there was not any Government, and that his authority was merely nominal. Abdelaziz reproached those around him saying "Ooled El Haram, hoama elly amelow hatshi," and so on!

Kaïd Hamza, then addressing the prisoners, told them how the Sultan had paid a large sum of money as an indemnity for their violence, and proceeded to inform them that the decision of His Majesty was that the Kadi of Dukalla, who possessed himself of M. Rockstrohe's ring and other property, be imprisoned for two years, Kaïd Abdelaziz for five years, and the remainder of the prisoners ten years.

The gravity of these sentences did not seem entirely displeasing to the men, many of them breaking into a placid smile; but it is as well to mention that the proceedings only lasted ten minutes, and that the object the German Government and their active officials in Morocco have in view can scarcely be vindicated until the men who actually

struck the fatal blows suffer the extreme penalty of the law, and two or three men, sentenced to the longer term of imprisonment to-day, but quite innocent, are liberated.

The proceedings of the Tribunal are generally characterized as farcical, none of the formalities of a trial at law being carried out. Herr Schrader was summoned, it appears, merely to hear the sentences imposed!

---

No. 98.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 126.)
*Tangier, October* 31, 1896.

My Lord,

A FRENCH officer from the Algerian frontier has been here for some little time in negotiation with Ci Abdulkerim Brisha for the settlement of some long outstanding claims arising out of border troubles and robberies.

An Algerian frontier tribe, the Homaian, appears to have been for some years past the victims of a series of robberies on the part of a Moorish tribe, the Beni Gil, and no satisfaction could be obtained for claims which amounted to 160,000 dollars. The matter has now been settled for a sum of 120,000 dollars, which presumably the Moorish Government will pay, and reimburse themselves from the offending tribe, if it be in their power to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 99.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 127.)
*Tangier, October* 31, 1896.

My Lord,

AS somewhat sensational rumours have been circulated in the local and Spanish press as to the measures which France proposes to take in consequence of the recent piratical attack on a French vessel, I asked the French Chargé d'Affaires whether he had received any instructions to present any specific demands, and whether his Government contemplated any coercive action on the Riffs. M. Riffault said that he had received no definite instructions, but he imagined that an indemnity would be demanded. It was impossible to state the amount of the indemnity until an inquiry had proved what losses had been sustained, and also what damage had been caused to the vessel. There was also some compensation to be made for the life of the French sailor who had been killed, and he expected that the sum to be claimed would be a considerable one. He dismissed as ridiculous the reports which had appeared in the newspapers as to the further demands which France would pcesent, and he doubted if any coercive measures would be adopted on the Riff coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 100.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 128.)
*Tangier, November* 4, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 106 of the 2nd September, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter which I have received from the Grand Vizier relative to the application of Messrs. Afriat and Co. to open a place of business at Cape Juby. The reply of the Grand Vizier is, as I anticipated, somewhat vague and evasive; but it would perhaps be advisable to allow a reasonable time to elapse before addressing the Moorish Government again on the subject. I have not heard that any measures are being taken by the Moorish Government for populating



the place, and I do not quite understand the necessity of doing so. I should have imagined that, owing to the conditions existing at Cape Juby, it would have been preferable to have kept the residents there within as small a number as possible, as even water, for instance, has to be sent from Mogador for the use of the present occupants.

The Minister of Finance, who is the trusted adviser of the Vizier, is much opposed to opening Cape Juby for trade, and he has probably been instrumental in adjourning a definite and satisfactory reply to the application of Messrs. Afriat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 100.

*Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)
5 *Jumad I*, 1314 (*October* 13, 1896.)

YOUR letter, oh friend, reached that Messrs. Afriat and those with him, merchants of London, seek to establish a house of business at Cape Juby, and asking that a plot of ground be appointed to them there, in conformity with the Treaties, about this drawn up with the former Minister, Mr. Satow. I am aware of it after bringing it to the knowledge of our Lord, the victorious in God, and he has ordered me to reply, oh intelligent, just one, that what you state of the Treaties you refer to is so admitted. Since the Government have taken over this place, it is occupied in arranging about it and preparing for establishing the means of populating it, so that any merchants who may go there may be safe and easy in mind about themselves and their merchandize and all their affairs. And immediately upon the completion of this work, notice will be sent you, oh friend, of it, and what is arranged in the matter requested, as the Government—God exalt it—is exceedingly eager to show the results of the populating this town.

May you remain, &c.
(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

---

No. 101.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord,
*Tangier, November* 5, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 109 of the 19th September, I have the honour to transmit translation of a note which I have received from the Grand Vizier, in reply to the last proposal which I made to the Moorish Government in regard to the extension of the mellah at Mogador. I regret to see that the Grand Vizier is immovable from the position he has assumed in the matter, and desires not to depart from the arrangement he had conceded to my predecessor. This arrangement the interested parties at Mogador declare to be unacceptable and impracticable, as they assert that no one will build a house at his own expense if, at the expiration of twenty years, it is to pass from his hands into those of the Moorish Government.

I will consult my colleagues as to whether they can suggest any solution of the question; but I fear it will require the personal presence of some foreign Minister at the Court to persuade the Moorish Government to adopt a different attitude, as further correspondence on the subject is not likely to lead to any result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 101.

*Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)
5 *Jumad I*, 1314 (*October* 13, 1896.)

YOUR reply has reached, oh friend, referring to the requested extension of the mellah at Mogador, and about which a reply was previously sent to you in the terms in

which the reply was first given to you when you were at the Shereefian Court, and you indicate an arrangement which appears to you would be well to make about it, and which is to fix upon a healthy site, and the Government erect houses thereon, and rent them at the rate of 6 per cent, taking into account the expense of the building and the walling in of the site, after arranging that which you refer to of settling the amount at which they are to be rented. I am aware of it, after bringing it to the knowledge of our Lord, the victorious in God, and he has ordered me to reply to oh, intelligent, just one, that building is no longer in force with the Government in all new buildings because of the harm done to the Government, and it not suiting them, therefore the Government have stopped it, and are not doing it for any of the foreign merchants or any one else, and the Government has issued a notice to this effect, and have decided not to do so any more, and that now the arrangement concluded with the former Minister, Satow, is that which will be acted upon, and it is not suitable that a contract made with a person like the said Minister should be broken. The site was selected formerly, and is now ready for this purpose if the said Jews wish to act in accordance with the conditions.

---

No. 102.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 20, 1896.

FRANCE and Tuat.

My telegram No. 31 of the 7th October.

The French reply to the communication from the Moorish Government is, I am informed, couched in amicable but vague terms, and suggestion as to submitting the matter to arbitration is ignored.

No intention of occupying Tuat is intimated, I am told, in the French note, nor is any mention made as to rights of proprietorship over it.

---

No. 103.

*Foreign Office to Jewish Conjoint Foreign Committee.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 24, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 16th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has received an unfavourable reply from the Moorish Government to the last proposal which he made to them in regard to the extension of the Mellah at Mogador.

Sir A. Nicolson regrets that he has been unable to persuade the Grand Vizier to depart from the arrangement which had been conceded to Sir E. Satow,—an arrangement which, for obvious reasons, the interested parties at Mogador consider to be unacceptable and impracticable. He will consult his colleagues as to whether they can suggest any solution of the question, but he fears that further correspondence on the subject with the Moorish Government is not likely to lead to a more favourable result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

---

No. 104.

*Foreign Office to Messrs. Afriat and Co.*

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, November* 24, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a despatch in regard to Cape Juby has been received from Sir A. Nicolson, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, with whom, it appears, you have been in direct correspondence.

In reply to your application to be permitted to open a place of business at Cape Juby, the Moorish Government, while admitting the right of British merchants to establish themselves there under the provisions of the Treaties between this country and Morocco, are desirous of taking preliminary measures with a view to populate the place.



Under these circumstances, Sir A. Nicolson suggests that it might be advisable to allow a reasonable time to elapse before addressing the Moorish Government again on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

---

No. 105.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 130.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 105 of the 3rd instant, inclosing a letter from Mr. Henry Gurney in regard to the reported sale of slaves in the open markets of the coast towns. I have not received any official confirmation of the reports which appeared in the local English newspapers to the above effect, but I am making inquiries on the subject.

Should it appear that such public sales have taken place, I might, if your Lordship approves, unofficially remind the Grand Vizier of the promises made by the late Sultan in 1884 that sales by public auction in the coast towns should be prohibited, although these orders seem to have never been effectually executed, as the Moorish Government in 1892 showed no disposition to go beyond a suggestion to limit such sales to certain specified localities. As Sir Euan-Smith remarked, such measures would increase instead of limiting the evil.

I doubt if the present Grand Vizier would show himself in this matter more enlightened or more courageous than his predecessors. I had no opportunity of dealing with the question while at Morocco city; but from what I learnt when at Court, any overtures on my part would have been coldly received, and would have led to no results. It might be possible to obtain, as a concession to foreign public opinion, the cessation of sales in open markets at the coast towns, but private sales would be substituted in their place, and the traffic would be continued openly and without diminution in the interior towns. No improvement would in reality be thereby effected; and I fear that no practical results can be expected unless united and determined pressure is brought to bear on the Moorish Government from all the Powers. I do not know if such collective action is possible, and I have not remarked any warm interest in the question among my colleagues.

I will acquaint your Lordship with the results of my inquiries in regard to the reports which have reached the Anti-Slavery Society.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 106.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 131.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 12, 1896.

I ASKED the Italian Minister the other day whether he had received any news from M. Gentile as to the progress he was making with regard to the matters which he was sent to discuss with the Grand Vizier. M. de Malmasi replied that M. Gentile had been seriously ill since he had arrived at the Court, and had been unable to leave his room or attend to any business. Beyond reporting to his Legation on the situation at Court, the only matters of importance which he had been instructed to treat was the question of the man-of-war which had been constructed in Italy for the Moorish Government. The latter had paid the amount due on account of this vessel, with the exception of some trifling outstanding items, but the difficulty was to hand over the ship. A few young Moors had received a naval training in the Italian fleet, sufficient to qualify them for the post of subordinate officers, and it would be possible to supply a European officer to take command of the ship for a limited period, but there still remained the question of the crew. Owing to the objections raised in certain quarters, the vessel could not be manned by Italians, and he was desirous

of inducing the Moorish Government to send Moors, accustomed to a seafaring life, to Italy to man the ship. He was awaiting a report from M. Gentile on these points.

I hear from Morocco city that the Vizier is now anxious to obtain the man-of-war and employ her on the Riff coast; but that he states that the Moorish Government are not allowed to take her over. He did not specify whence this prohibition had emanated, but I presume he alludes to the difficulty as to the manning of the vessel. I am afraid that a crew of untrained Moorish boatmen would not form a very effective compliment, and it is likely that a considerable time will elapse before the ship passes into the hands of her owners. In the meantime, her maintenance is a cause of some expense to the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 107.

*Consul-General Haggard to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Tunis, November* 19, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose cuttings from the "Dépêche Tunisienne" with reference to the proposed French occupation of Tuat, and circumstances connected therewith. The French and Tunisian press contains constant allusion to these subjects, and the pretentions of Morocco in that direction would appear to be considered, at least, by the press, as a "quantité négligeable."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

---

### Inclosure 1 in No. 107.

*Extract from "La Dépêche Tunisienne" of November* 10, 1896.

LE "Temps," à propos de la mort du Lieutenant Collot, dit que, pour permettre à nos fortins de jouer le rôle qui a motivé leur installation, il n'y a qu'un moyen, c'est de mettre ces ouvrages en communication rapide avec les places qui doivent servir de bases d'opérations et de ravitaillement.

Sur le même sujet, "La France" dit que moins de 150,000 Sahariens arrêtent, depuis trente ans, notre marche en avant dans le sud et le développement de nos intérêts en Afrique.

Ce faible obstacle a suffi pour entraver notre action au Soudan et permettre aux Anglais de prendre une influence prépondérante dans le nord du continent.

Or, pour défendre les territoires auxquels nous avons droit, il est absolument nécessaire de prendre possession du Touat et de mettre des Consuls, avec une garde suffisante pour assurer leur sécurité, à Ghadamès et à Rhat.

L'occupation du Touat est une simple mesure de police et l'installation de Consuls une simple formalité que notre Ministre des Affaires Etrangères est aujourd'hui en mesure d'accomplir aisément.

Le "Petit Parisien," revenant sur l'affaire d'El-Goléah, estime que l'assassinat du malheureux Lieutenant Collot fournit un argument sérieux à ceux qui regrettent les temporisations apportées à l'exécution des opérations sur le Touat.

---

### Inclosure 2 in No. 107.

*Extract from "La Dépêche Tunisienne" of November* 11, 1896.

LE "Temps," à propos de l'expédition possible du Touat, dit:—

"Le Touat a des millions de palmiers et on y refera les merveilles déjà réalisées, dans le même ordre d'idées, par les audacieux colons du Sud Constantinois, dans la Vallée de l'Oued-Bihr.



"Seulement le Touat est, comme nos Ksours Algériens, en pleine dégénérescence; la population y est clairsemée. On parlait autrefois de plusieurs centaines de mille habitants. Aujourd'hui les plus sages fixent entre 100,000 et 200,000, au maximum, l'ensemble de la population Touatienne.

"Pour rendre à ce pays son antique splendeur, il faut que plusieurs générations aient pu retrouver, à l'ombre de notre drapeau, l'analogie de cette *pax romana* que les légendes Romaines ont donnée, pendant deux siècles, à tous les peuples de la Méditerranée.

"Mais, avant que les Touatiens aient cultivé à nouveau leurs anciens jardins et rendu à leur race étiolée la vigueur que lui ont fait perdre leur isolement et leur consanguinité, il ne faut pas se faire de bien grandes illusions sur les avantages économiques que pourrait donner à bref délai l'occupation Française.

"Voilà pourquoi nombre de personnes autorisées proscrivent l'envoi au Touat d'une grande colonne expéditionnaire comportant des convois considérables, d'où des sacrifices financiers hors de proportion avec le but à atteindre.

"Il est vrai que ces personnes, au nombre desquelles se trouvent des officiers généraux, rencontrent des contradicteurs qui disent qu'il faut une grande colonne militaire ou rien, car nous ne voulons pas nous exposer à un nouveau Zaatcha.

"Il est vrai aussi que nos adversaires d'aujourd'hui ne résisteraient pas longtemps à nos explosifs.

"De tout ceci il résulte nettement que la question du Touat ne peut avoir que deux solutions: intervention limitée ou renonciation pure et simple.

"Cette dernière thèse peut se défendre, mais elle implique des contre-coups que nous signalerons."

---

### Inclosure 3 in No. 107.

*Extract from "La Dépêche Tunisienne" of November* 13, 1896.

ON nous rapporte de l'Algérie, et de source certaine, qu'une razia a été exécutée par les Chaâmbas, tout près de Tougourt.

On nous assure que ce sont ces mêmes Chaâmbas qui ont assassiné le Marquis de Morès et ses compagnons, et qui rôdent aujourd'hui à droite et à gauche, continuant leur pillage.

Une brigade de police va être créée à Nefta à partir du 1er Janvier prochain.

Cette brigade dépendra du Commissariat de Tozeur. Une Commission Municipale est également en préparation.

M. Rolland, Instituteur-Adjoint à l'École Annexe de l'École Normale de Tunis, est nommé Directeur-Receveur à Nefta.

---

## No. 108.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 132.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 19, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 109 of the 4th instant, transmitting copy of a letter from Messrs. Dehn and Heine with respect to their claims on account of the disturbances in the M'zab district, I have the honour to state that the Moorish Government has not yet actually pledged itself to reimburse merchants for their losses, but has only stated that the matter is receiving careful attention with the view of an arrangement being arrived at satisfactory to all parties. It is expected that before long the Moorish Government will make some proposals for a settlement of the numerous claims, which amount to a considerable sum.

It would be well to afford the Moorish authorities a reasonable time for examining the matter before pressing the question again on their attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 109.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 133.)
My Lord,

*Tangier, November* 20, 1896.

I WAS informed yesterday that the French Legation had replied to the communication of the Moorish Government in regard to French pretensions to Tuat, and on which I reported in my despatch No. 113 of the 7th October. The note of the French Legation was couched, I am told, in very friendly terms, but carefully avoided any reference to the points at issue, and completely ignored the suggestion put forward by the Moorish Government for submitting the case to the arbitration of the Powers. This reply has considerably puzzled the Moorish authorities here, and will probably also perplex the Central Government. I believe that the Moorish Government anticipated that the French Government would either reassert their contention that Tuat was of no concern to Morocco, or refuse to entertain the proposal of arbitration, and that, in either case, some ground would be afforded for addressing the other Powers on the subject. The avoidance of either of these courses, and the very vague character of the French reply, will embarrass the future action of the Moorish Government.

My Spanish colleague is of opinion that the Moorish Government will insist on a more categorical statement of French views and intentions; but it is possible that it will be disposed to allow matters to rest in their present condition until some further development of the case occurs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 110.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 134.)
My Lord,

*Tangier, November* 21, 1896.

SOME information which apparently appeared in some London journals as to the formation of an English Syndicate, called the Globe Venture Syndicate, which professes to have obtained a trading and mining monopoly in the Sûs district, has been copied into the Spanish and local Tangier press. I have been unable to ascertain whether any of the Chiefs in the Sûs districts have granted any concessions to the Company in question, but I think I may state with certainty that such concessions have not received, and are not likely to receive, the approval of the Sultan. The Company, it is said, propose to open up trade by the Wad Nun River, and I heard privately a short time ago that the Kaid of that district had permitted some Europeans to effect a landing in those parts. I am endeavouring to procure confirmation of this news, as, if it be true, it may have some connection with the projects of the Company.

Should I learn anything further on the subject, I will inform your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 111.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord,

*Tangier, November* 23, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 133 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister informs me that the French note suggested, in courteous and amicable terms, the withdrawal of the Moorish officials from Timmimoun in Tuat, as it considers that the departure of these authorities would lead to the possibility of a better understanding being arrived at between the Tuat tribes and those in the adjacent Algerian districts. His information as to the general tenour of the French communication corresponds with that which I have received.



M. de Ojéda considers that it would be wise if the Moorish Government were to insist on a definite reply being given to their proposal to submit the case to arbitration, as he is of opinion that it would be against the interests of the Sultan to remain satisfied with the vague and evasive reply which the French Legation has made.

M. de Ojéda appears to me to consider the question of Tuat as of more importance than he formerly did, and to be more inclined to advocate the Moorish case. It may be, as Sir H. Drummond-Wolff observed in his despatch No. 240 of the 23rd ultimo, that the failure of Spain to float a loan in France has altered the circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 112.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 117.)
Sir,

*Foreign Office, December* 2, 1896.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of correspondence which may possibly throw some light on the Globe Venture Syndicate referred to in your despatch No. 134 of the 21st ultimo.*

Messrs. Perry and Honig have been informed verbally that Dr. Abdul Kerim, referred to in the inclosed letters, is an impostor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

---

No. 113.

*Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.*

Gentlemen,

*Foreign Office, December* 3, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 30th October last relating to your claims on the Moorish Government on account of disturbances in the M'zab district, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a further despatch has been received from Sir A. Nicolson, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, on this subject.

He states that the Moorish Government has not yet actually pledged itself to reimburse merchants for their losses, but has only stated that the matter is receiving careful attention with the view of an arrangement being arrived at satisfactory to all parties.

He adds that it is expected before long that the Moorish Government will make some proposal for a settlement of the numerous claims, which amount to a considerable sum, and that it would be well to afford them a reasonable time for examining the matter before pressing the question again on their attention.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

---

No. 114.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.*—(*Received December* 9.)

Sir,

*Downing Street, December* 8, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th ultimo, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Marquess of Salisbury, a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Gibraltar forwarding a Petition for compensation for the alleged piratical attack on the felucca "Joven Enrique."

Mr. Chamberlain is of opinion that, as the master of the vessel professes to have recognized one of the pirates, the proper course would be to require him to establish

* Not inclosed.

the facts of the alleged robbery by prosecuting the offender before any claim against the Moorish Government is preferred on his behalf.

Should Lord Salisbury concur in this view, Mr. Chamberlain proposes to reply to the above effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

*Governor Sir R. Biddulph to Mr. Chamberlain.*

Sir, *Gibraltar, November* 26, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 128 of the 12th instant, forwarding a copy of a despatch to the Foreign Office from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, reporting an alleged piratical attack on the British felucca "Joven Enrique" off Cape Negron.

2. The "Joven Enrique" returned to this port on the 15th October, and on the 17th her master made a short verbal statement at the Port Office to the same effect as the report embodied in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch.

3. No further communication was made to the Government until the receipt of the inclosed Memorial from Mr. P. H. Pisani, in which claim is made for 702 dollars, value of old cartridge cases, and 1,100 dollars, alleged to have been stolen. The master and crew further claim 1,000*l.* by way of compensation.

4. The "Joven Enrique" had her British certificate cancelled in February last, as she was found to be the property of one M. Diaz, a Spanish subject resident in Tetuan, and said to be the leader of the contraband trade with the Riff Coast. She was then purchased by a British subject, a Mr. Cerisola, living in Gibraltar, and received a fresh certificate as a British vessel. It is noteworthy that the registered owner does not come forward to support and share the claim.

5. With regard to the money alleged to have been on board as the property of the master, I am informed that Francisco Gomez, who appears to be a Spanish subject, is most unlikely to be the owner of such a sum, or to have sufficient credit to raise it. No proof beyond the bare statement of the master is offered as to the money having been on board, whereas, in previous cases, evidence has been produced as to the payment of similar moneys, and of the coins of which they consisted.

6. In these circumstances, I do not think much weight is to be attached to the statements put forward in support of the claim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. BIDDULPH.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

*Memorial of Mr. F. Gomez and others.*

To Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c.:

The humble Memorial of Francis Gomez, Master of the British felucca, the "Joven Enrique," of Rafael Gomez, James Abullon, and Francis Gomez, jun., the crew of the said British felucca "Joven Enrique," and of Arthur Danino, of Gibraltar, commission agent.

Sheweth:

1. YOUR memorialist, Francis Gomez, in company of his crew, sailed from Gibraltar on or about the 11th day of October last, bound for Tetuan and Oran with a cargo of salt, old metal, and 1,100 dollars in cash.

2. On or about the 12th day of October, 1896, at about 3 o'clock P.M., being then close to Cape Negron, between Ceuta and Tetuan, in the Morocco coast, and about 2 miles from the shore, they observed a boat approaching them.

3. As there was no wind at the time your memorialist's felucca was unable to proceed, and the boat, wherein there were five Riffians, got alongside them, and the Riffians went on board their vessel.



4. The said five Riffians were armed with Remington rifles, which were loaded.

5. The said Riffians, immediately they got on board your memorialist's vessel, pointed to your memorialists with their loaded rifles, and demanded that all the cargo that was on board should be handed over to them.

6. Your memorialist, Francis Gomez, at first declined to hand over the cargo to the Riffians, but, fearing for the safety of his crew, and of the two passengers who were on board, and also for himself, eventually gave up the cargo to the Riffians.

7. The said Riffians took the cargo and placed it into their said boat.

8. The cargo robbed by the Riffians consisted of 1,170 kilog. of old metal, *i.e.*, old cartridge cases contained in fourteen bags, and 1,100 dollars in cash. The value of said old metal is 702 dollars. Your memorialist, Francis Gomez, begs to inclose duplicate original copy of bill of lading in the Spanish language, and translation thereof into the English language, marked (A).

9. The said fourteen bags of old metal belonged to Mr. A. Danino, of Gibraltar, Commission Agent, and were embarked at Gibraltar by said gentleman, as it appears by the bill of lading marked (A).

10. The said 1,100 dollars in cash belonged to your memorialist, Francis Gomez, and was intended for the purchase of grain at Oran by your memorialist, Francis Gomez.

11. After the Riffians had placed the fourteen bags of old metal and the 1,100 dollars into their boat, they laid alongside your memorialist's vessel till about dark, and thus delaying and detaining your memorialist's vessel for some time. They then proceeded towards the Riffian coast, carrying away with them the fourteen bags of old metal and the 1,100 dollars.

12. At this time, a light breeze having set in, your memorialists continued their voyage, and arrived at Tetuan on the same night at about 9 o'clock.

13. On the following day, the 13th day of October, 1896, your Memorialist, Francis Gomez, appeared before Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Tetuan, and caused his protest to be duly noted.

14. On the 16th day of November, 1896, your memorialists appeared before Henry Morales, Esq., Notary Public at Gibraltar, and caused their protest to be made and extended. An original copy of which, and of the protest made at Tetuan, are hereunto annexed, marked (B).

15. Your memorialist, Francis Gomez, has likewise complained of this act of piracy and robbery to Herbert E. White, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Tangier.

16. The boat wherein the five Riffians were belonged to a certain man named José Tosso, a resident at Tetuan.

17. Your memorialist, Arthur Danino, trusts that your Lordship will adopt such steps as your Lordship may consider necessary and proper in order that he may be refunded by His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan of Morocco for the loss of the fourteen bags of old metal, its value being 702 dollars, and be compensated also for the loss he has sustained in the profits he has lost, which he estimates at about 150 dollars.

Under the above special facts your memorialist, Francis Gomez, trusts that your Lordship will adopt such steps as may seem fit, proper, and necessary in order that His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan of Morocco may compensate and refund him the 1,100 dollars robbed by the five Riffians when close to Cape Negron, off the Morocco coast; and your memorialists, Francis Gomez, Rafael Gomez, James Abullon, and Francis Gomez, jun., also trust that your Lordship demand from His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan of Morocco the sum of 1,000*l.*, or such other sum or sums as may seem fair and just for the unwarrantable and unjustifiable assaults committed on them on the 11th day of October ultimo. Your memorialist, Arthur Danino, also trusts that similar steps be taken by your Lordship on his behalf, so that he may also be refunded the value of the fourteen bags of old metal, which is 702 dollars, and be compensated for the profits he has lost, which he estimates at about 150 dollars.

And they will ever pray, &c.

(Signed) FRANCO. GOMEZ.
RAFAEL GOMEZ.
JAMES ABULLON, his × mark.
FRANCIS GOMEZ, JUN., ditto.
ARTHUR DANINO.

*Gibraltar, November* 20, 1896.

P.S.—Please address all communications in this matter to Pliny H. Pisani, Esq., Barrister-at-law, Gibraltar.

---

(A.)

(Translation.)

I, FRANCIS GOMEZ, captain of the British felucca named "Joven Enrique," which is at present anchored in Gibraltar, to undertake a voyage to Oran. I acknowledge having received and having in the hold of said vessel of Mr. A. Danino fourteen bags of old metal in useless cartridges, 1,170 kilog., dried and in good condition, marked and numbered as in margin, and I bind myself on my safe arrival to deliver them to order, who will pay freight, and their respective average, and for the fulfilment I bind myself and my goods according to the practice and law of commerce, signing two bills of lading of one tenor and for one sole effect.

Made at Gibraltar this 9th day of October, 1896.

(Signed) FRANCIS GOMEZ.

---

(B.)

*Note of Protest.*

On this 13th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1896, personally appeared and presented himself before me, W. S. Bewicke, British Vice-Consul, at Tetuan, Francisco Gomez, master of the British felucca the "Joven Enrique," 26 tons register, which sailed from Gibraltar on or about the 11th day of October present, with a cargo of salt, iron, &c., and 1,100 dollars bound for Tetuan and Oran, and arrived at Tetuan on the 12th day of October instant, and fearing damage, owing to robbery by men arriving in boat belonging to Tosso, one of whom he recognized as Hamette, a Riffian. The men were armed, and he could not resist. This robbery took place north of Cape Negron, about three hours after midday, on the 12th October instant, and the men took 1,100 dollars and 1,170 kilog. old iron, that is, old cartridge cases in fourteen bags during the voyage. He hereby notes his protest against all losses, damages, &c., reserving right to extend the same at time and place convenient.

(Signed) FRANCISCO GOMEZ.

Signed before me, British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, this 13th day of October, 1896.

(Signed) W. S. Bewicke,
*British Vice-Consul.*

(Stamps 7/6.)

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the original note of protest, entered in the acts of this Consulate and copied therefrom.

(L.S.) W. S. BEWICKE,
*British Vice-Consul.*

(Stamps 10/6.)

By this public instrument of protest be it known and made manifest unto all people that on this 16th day of November, in the year of our Lord, 1896, before me, Henry Morales, Notary Public by Royal authority, duly admitted and sworn, domiciled and practising in Gibraltar, personally appeared Francisco Gomez, sen., master of the British felucca called the "Joven Enrique," belonging to this port of Gibraltar, of the burthen of 26 tons register, and James Abullon, Rafael Gomez and Francisco Gomez, jun., seamen of the said vessel, who did severally, duly and solemnly, declare and state as follows, that is to say: That on the 11th day of October last, about 3 P.M., these appearers, composing the crew of the said vessel, set sail in her from this port of Gibraltar, bound on a voyage to Tetuan and Oran, laden with a general cargo, 1,100 hard dollars in cash, and two passengers, the said vessel being then tight, staunch and strong, well-manned, victualled and sound, and in every respect fit to perform her said intended voyage. That they proceeded with favourable wind and weather, but without anything worth mentioning having happened until the 12th day of October last, about 3 P.M., when, being to the northward of Cape Negron (between Ceuta and Tetuan) and about 2 miles distant from the shore, the vessel being becalmed, they observed a boat approaching them from Tetuan, which said boat went alongside their said vessel, and it then turned out to be a boat belonging to one José Tosso, manned by five Riffians well armed with rifles;



the said Riffians thereupon boarded their said vessel, and one of them known to the appearers by the name of Hamette directed the master to open the hatches, to which he strongly opposed and objected, but the Riffians pointed at the appearers with their weapons, persisting on the hatches being opened, whereupon the said appearers, considering that their lives were in great danger if they resisted any longer, opened the hatches, and two of the crew, in company of one of the Riffians, were ordered by the four others to go into the holds, from which they took fourteen bags of old metal, weighing about 1,170 kilos, belonging to Mr. Arturo Danino, of Gibraltar, destined to Oran. While this operation was being done the Riffians, minus the one who had gone down, continued pointing with their rifles to the rest of the crew. Two of the Riffians then went to the cabin, carefully searching it, and forcibly compelled the master to open the trunk, from which they took the said sum of 1,100 hard dollars they had on board in cash belonging to the master, intended for the purchase of grain from Oran. After having committed the aforesaid robbery the said five Riffians embarked in their boat, carrying away the fourteen bags of metal and the 1,100 dollars plundered, and stayed alongside the said vessel, detaining her till about dark, when they rowed off in the direction of the Riffian coast. Meanwhile a light breeze from the westward had set in, and as soon as the pirates left, the said appearers continued their voyage to Tetuan, where they arrived the same night about 9 o'clock. And the said master for himself declares that on the following day, the 13th October last, he appeared before the British Vice-Consul in Tetuan, and caused his protest to be duly noted, certified copy of which is hereunto annexed. Wherefore the appearers do as well for themselves as all others concerned by these presents, solemnly protest against His Shereefian Majesty the Emperor of Morocco, his Government and the aforesaid Riffian pirates, holding him and them responsible for the aforesaid act of piracy, and all and singular the premises for all losses, costs, charges, damages, detriments and expenses that have accrued or may hereafter accrue to their said vessel and cargo on board the same in the voyage aforesaid, which they declare to have happened, and been occasioned solely in the manner hereinbefore set forth, and declared concerning the same, and not by or through any carelessness, mismanagement or neglect of duty in them or any one of them, and they severally and respectively make this solemn declaration conscientiously, believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the 6th year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the IVth, intituled, "An Act to repeal an Act of the present Session of Parliament intituled an 'Act for the more effectual Abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the State, and to substitute Declarations in lieu thereof, and for the more entire Suppression of Voluntary and Extra-Judicial Oaths and Affidavits,' and to make other provisions for the Abolition of unnecessary Oaths."

(Signed) FRANCO. GOMEZ.
RAFAEL GOMEZ.
JAMES ABULLON, his × mark.
FRANCISCO GOMEZ, Jun., ditto.

Thus declared and protested in due form of law at Gibraltar aforesaid the day and year first before written, the same having been translated by me into the Spanish language unto all the appearers, and the appearers James Abullon and Francisco Gomez., jun., being illiterate, having made a mark instead of their respective signatures.

Before me,

(Signed) Henry Morales,
*Notary Public, Gibraltar.*

---

No. 115.

*Memorandum by Mr. Oakes, with Minute.*

THE Morocco Order in Council (1889), Article 7, says:—

"There shall be and there is hereby established a Court styled Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Court for Morocco.

* * * * * *

"The members of the Court shall be the Consular officers; but . . . . . as regards the uncommissioned Consular officers, with such exceptions, if any, as the Consul-General from time to time thinks fit to make by writing signed by him.

"Each member of the Court in exercising the jurisdiction thereof in conformity with this Order shall, for the purposes of this Order, be deemed to form and be the Court.

* * * * * *

"The jurisdiction of the Court shall, for and within each *Consular district*, be exercised . . . . . by the *Consular officers* for that district."

Under the interpretation clause "Consular district" means "the district in and for which a Consular officer usually acts," &c., and "Consular officer" means "a Consul, Vice-Consul, or Consular Agent," &c.

I imagine, therefore, that the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, unless he has been excepted by the Consul-General from the operation of Article 7 of the Order in Council, is empowered under that Article to exercise the jurisdiction of the Court at that place, and to form and be the Court.

But, notwithstanding the probable existence of a British Consular Court at Tetuan, it seems doubtful whether such a Court would be available for the purposes of the matter now in hand.

The position seems to be this:—

A British vessel is attacked and plundered by Moorish subjects in a boat owned by an Italian, or a person under Italian protection, resident at Tetuan.

Part of the property stolen is said to have belonged to the master of the British vessel, who, according to the Governor of Gibraltar, is presumably a Spanish subject.

One of the Moors manning the attacking boat is recognized by those on board the British vessel as a Riffian named Hamette, and the Colonial Office suggest that the master of the British vessel should prosecute this individual in the first instance, before any claim is made against the Moorish Government in respect of the robbery.

The British Consular Court does not appear to be the proper Court to entertain the case; for, supposing that it has jurisdiction by reason of the nationality of the *vessel*, it would have none as against a Moorish defendant unless the defendant elected to submit himself to the jurisdiction of the Court.

It is stipulated by Article IX of the General Treaty between this country and Morocco of the 9th December, 1856, that, "All criminal cases and complaints, and all civil differences, disputes, or causes of litigation arising between British subjects and subjects of the Moorish Government, shall be adjusted in the following manner: If the plaintiff be a British subject and the defendant a Moorish subject, the Governor of the the town or district, or the Cadi, according as the case may appertain to their respective Courts, shall alone judge the case; the British subject making his appeal to the Governor or Cadi through the British Consul-General, Consul, or his deputy, who will have a right to be present in the Court during the whole trial of the case." ("H. T. X.," p. 907.) (See also Articles 5 and 113 of the Morocco Order in Council.)

It would therefore seem to be before the *Native* Court that the Moorish subject should in the present instance be proceeded against.

(Signed) A. H. OAKES.

*Foreign Office, December* 12, 1896.

---

In face of this Memorandum, would it not be better to send the Colonial Office letter to Sir A. Nicolson, and ask for his opinion as to proposed reply.

The case seems so little worthy of support that we might concur in proposed reply, but suggest omitting the last words with regard to claim against the Moorish Government, and explain to Colonial Office that proceedings would have to be taken in the Native Court.

And correspondence to Sir A. Nicolson.

F. H. V.

---



No. 116.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 226. Africa.)

My Lord, *Paris, December* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an article from this morning's "Figaro," publishing a rumour according to which a detachment of Colonel Didier's force, sent to the extreme south of Algeria to avenge the murder of Lieutenant Collot and his companions, is believed to be by this time in occupation of the oasis of Tuat.

The writer affirms that he has this news from a generally well informed source of information in Algeria; that the War Office has neither denied nor confirmed the report; and that, at all events, it is known that a strong detachment, under Lieutenant Fournier's command, is on the road to Ani-Salah, the gate of the Tuat oasis.

I shall endeavour to ascertain whether there is any truth in this rumoured advance, but in view of the reports sent to your Lordship in Mr. Consul-General Haggard's despatch No. 88 of the 19th ultimo, I think it well to call your Lordship's attention to the inclosed article.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 116.

*Extract from the "Figaro" of December* 12, 1896.

IL paraît que, pendant qu'on discute à Paris sur l'opportunité de l'occupation du Touat, nos troupes de l'extrême sud réalisent cette occupation. La nouvelle m'en est adressée d'Alger par des gens en qui j'ai toute confiance.

Il en était de cette question du Touat un peu comme de l'antique problème du mouvement, sur lequel pâlissaient les théoriciens et les rhéteurs. Pourrait-on occuper l'oasis du Touat? Pourrait-on planter le drapeau sur les murs d'Insallah, la cité sainte, défendue par des milliers et des milliers de fidèles, résolus à mourir plutôt qu'à supporter la souillure du contact des roumis? Combien de bataillons faudrait-il sacrifier pour réduire tous les défenseurs de la vieille citadelle de l'Islam au Sahara? Autant de problèmes dont la discussion pouvait se prolonger encore des années sans aucune chance de solution, si les hommes d'action ne s'étaient mis de la partie. De même que leurs ancêtres prouvaient le mouvement en marchant, ils viennent de prouver que l'on pouvait aller au Touat, en y allant.

Voici comment. On se rappelle l'écho publié récemment par le "Figaro," et disant, à propos de l'absence de nouvelles de l'extrême sud, où le Colonel Didier poursuivait les assassins de la Mission Collot:—

"Nous ne serions pas étonnés si dans quelques jours on apprenait que 'la colonne Didier' opère dans les oasis du Touat, que les goumiers combattent sous les murs d'Insalah, et que le drapeau est engagé par la force des choses."

Le lendemain de la publication de cet écho, transmis télégraphiquement par les agences et les correspondants de journaux à Alger, arrivait de cette ville une dépêche annonçant que le Colonel Didier venait de rentrer à Ghardaïa, après avoir poursuivi un rezzou de Chambâa très avant sur la route d'Insalah.

Cette dépêche ne disait qu'une partie de la vérité. C'est au moins ce que prétendent mes amis d'Alger.

Le Colonel Didier était bien rentré à Ghardaïa. Mais pas avec toute sa colonne. Il avait dû rebrousser chemin avec son convoi, avec les bagages . . . . . les puits n'offrant pas assez d'eau pour tous ses hommes, pour tous ses animaux.

Mais il avait laissé sur la route d'Insalah toute l'avant-garde et la majeure partie des goumiers de sa colonne. Ce détachement, conduite par le Lieutenant Fournier, serait aujourd'hui à Insalah. Il serait même entré dans l'oasis sacrée sans avoir besoin de tirer un coup de fusil. Il y aurait été reçu amicalement, après avoir demandé la permission d'y demeurer quelques jours, afin de permettre aux chameaux fatigués de prendre du repos.

L'événement, on le voit, présente quelque importance, et peut être gros de conséquences. Ou bien c'est l'occupation pacifique du Touat démontrée par "le fait,"

et que l'on ne saurait plus refuser. Ou bien si la fatalité voulait qu'un malheur arrivât, que le détachement du Lieutenant Fournier ne sortit plus des oasis d'Insalah, ce serait le "drapeau engagé," l'expédition rendue nécessaire.

Mais le fait est-il exact? On me l'affirme d'Alger. Et ceux qui me renseignent sont, je le répète, généralement bien renseignés. Le Ministère de la Guerre ne dément pas la nouvelle; il dit seulement l'ignorer.

En tous cas, on remarquera que les dépêches officielles reçues ces derniers jours avouaient la marche d'une véritable colonne sur la route d'Insalah. On disait seulement que le Colonel Didier avait dû prendre des "forces suffisantes" pour poursuivre avec avantage le rezzou des assassins de la Mission Collot.

Or, veut-on savoir quel était le nombre de ces assassins, d'après la déclaration du survivant du massacre? Ce fameux rezzou comprenait en tout trois Chambâa, qui, armés de fusils à répétition, et embusqués derrière une dune surplombant la route, tuèrent par surprise, en un instant, pour ainsi dire à bout portant, le Lieutenant Collot et trois de ses compagnons.

Il est difficilement admissible que le Colonel Didier eût mobilisé tant de cavaliers, tant de goumiers (que ceux avoués par les dépêches officielles) dans l'unique but de poursuivre trois Chambâa.

Une reconnaissance "sérieuse" des approches du Touat semble bien plutôt avoir été son but réel. Il est donc parfaitement possible que le Lieutenant Fournier, poussant jusqu'au bout cette reconnaissance, soit aujourd'hui à Insalah, comme le prétendent mes amis d'Alger . . . . . lesquels sont généralement très bien renseignés.

---

## No. 117.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 136.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 26, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 121 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to report that the statement which the master of the falucho "Joven Enrique" made at Gibraltar in regard to the alleged piracy of his vessel did not add anything to the protest which he had entered at the British Vice-Consulate at Tetuan. On the 12th instant, Gomez called at the Consulate at Tangier in company with the shipper Danino, and made a statement of which I beg leave to transmit a copy.

I requested Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke to endeavour to ascertain the names of the Moors who were in the boat which boarded the "Joven Enrique," and a copy of his reply is herewith inclosed.

The Governor of Gibraltar has informed me that should Gomez prefer any claim, it will be forwarded to this Legation in due course, together with any further information which may be obtained in the matter.

In the present state of the question, and until some doubtful points are cleared up, I do not think any representations can be made to the Moorish Government.

I may add that I have been privately informed that the French Consular Agent at Tetuan has been making inquiries into this case under instructions from the French Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 117.

*Statement of Francisco Gomez.*

FRANCISCO GOMEZ, master of the "Joven Enrique," states that he left Gibraltar about 3·30 or 4 P.M. on the 11th October with a cargo consisting of fourteen sacks containing 1,170 kilogs. of old metal cartridge cases shipped by Arthur Danino for Oran, not consigned to any one in particular, but merely "to order," and 10 tons of salt shipped in bulk for Tetuan. The salt belonged to himself, and had been purchased from Messrs. Bland and Co. at Gibraltar. The following day, 12th October, at about half-past 2 P.M., when his vessel was about 2 miles from Cape Negro, she was boarded by five armed Moors, who came out in a boat belonging to José Tosso, of Tetuan. Of the five Moors he knew only one, viz., Hamete, a Riffian who is frequently at Tetuan. Notwithstanding his protests, these Moors opened the hold and took the fourteen sacks of cartridge cases, which they transferred to their boat. They also took 1,100 dollars in cash which he was taking to Oran for the purchase of barley. Of the 1,100 dollars, 100 dollars were his own, 500 dollars belonged to his aunt, Rosaria Martinez, and the remaining 500 dollars to his brother-in-law, Bartolo Guerrero. They did not remove any of the salt, but, after placing the cartridge cases and money in their boat, went off in the direction of the Riff. He then proceeded to Tetuan, where he arrived that same night at 9 P.M. The following day, 13th October, he went to the Vice-Consulate at 10 A.M. and saw Mr. Bewicke, who took note of his complaint. He merely noted his protest at that time, and subsequently extended it at Gibraltar. Having landed his salt at Martin and stored it on the shore, he started again at about 4 P.M. on the 14th October, arriving at Gibraltar about sunrise the next morning. Whilst at Tetuan he saw Tosso, and told him that it was in his boat that the Moors came out to the "Joven Enrique." Tosso replied that he knew nothing about the matter, as his boat had been hired from him. He did not say, however, who had hired it.

Miquel Diaz and a Portuguese were passengers on board the "Joven Enrique" at the time she was boarded by the Moors.

Arthur Danino, who had brought Francisco Gomez to the Consulate, stated that the old cartridge cases were his, and that he had shipped them to Oran as old metal. They were shipped "to order," and he would have subsequently sent instructions by steamer to whom they should be delivered.

*Tangier, November* 12, 1896.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 117.

*Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 51.)

Sir, *Tetuan, November* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to reply to your despatch No. 24 of the 13th instant, asking me to find out the names of the men who were in the boat said to have robbed the British felucca "Joven Enrique."

I have the honour to report that some time ago I inquired about this, and was informed that the men were:—

Hamed ould Malem Hamed;
Ayashi ould-el-Larbi;
Ci Abdullah;
Zegdad; and another.

I have now endeavoured to get hold of one of these men, but have failed to find them, and gather that they are away at present.

Knowing that the French Consular Agent had been making inquiries about this matter I applied to him, and he gives me the names as:—

Hamed ould Malem Hamed;
Abdullah-ben-Mohammed, of Bokouja;
L'Arbi-ben-Aisa;
Ci Mohammed-ben-Ali;
Mohammed-ben-Amar.

As regards the difference in names, I think Zegdad is very likely to be a nickname, as is so often the case here.

The French Consular Agent also informs me that he saw one of the men, who gave him the following account:—

Hamed ould Malem Hamed hired the boat from Tosso for 33 dollars, and engaged the other men to go with him on a short trip. They first went off to the north of Cape Negro, where they found the felucca at anchor, and Hamed went on board and gave the master 5-fr. fifty notes (250 fr.), receiving some merchandize which had been brought for him, and which was placed in the boat. Hamed then asked for the cartridges, but the master said they belonged to Pinto, and he could not give them to

him, but after some further talk, which he could not hear, the bags were handed to them in the boat. Hamed shook hands with the master and got into the boat, the master wishing him a pleasant voyage.

On being asked if they had their guns with them, he said of course they had, as they never went to the Riff without them.

The French Consular Agent also informs me that Hamed, who had been for some time working contraband with Tosso, had recently quarrelled with Tosso over money matters, and that this would account for his having to pay so high for the boat.

I have not obtained any confirmation about this quarrel between Hamed and Tosso, and when I first heard that Hamed was said to have hired the boat for 30 dollars, thought that it was an arrangement made by Tosso to clear himself if any difficulties arose, as he could not get away to the Riff country like Hamed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

---

No. 118.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 138.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 3, 1896.

HADJ MOHAMED LEBADY, the Deputy Agent of the Sultan in Tangier, called upon me to-day, by order of the Grand Vizier, to speak on the subject of the Riff piracy cases. He told me that the Grand Vizier desired to have my advice as to what should be done to prevent these continued piratical acts; and he prefaced his remarks by alluding to the encouragement which was given to the Riffs by the supply of contraband from the European coast. He seemed to be under the impression that Riffians proceeded to the Spanish ports and Gibraltar, procured arms and ammunition there, and then returned to Morocco to prosecute their misdeeds.

I told Mohamed Lebady that it seemed to me impossible that Riff boats should proceed to Gibraltar, as I doubted if they would be admitted without bills of health, and I did not think such documents were issued from the Riff coast. Moreover, I believed that it would be equally impossible for them to obtain arms and ammunition in Gibraltar or to export them thence. Mohamed Lebady said he believed the Riffians boarded the Spanish mail-boats at sea and took passage in them for Spanish ports and Gibraltar. Would it not, he asked, be possible for the authorities at Gibraltar to arrest them on arrival, or to forbid their disembarcation? I explained to him that this mode of procedure was not possible.

Mohamed Lebady then asked me what the Government should do in regard to the pirates. I told him that I believed the piracy was carried on by one tribe only, the Bocoya, and I advised him to warn the Grand Vizier that European Governments were becoming weary of these repeated offences. It was necessary that the Moorish Government should give some clear and evident proof of their intention to suppress the misdeeds; and they should send a vessel down to the Riff coast to destroy all the boats, and keep a watch there during some months. It was possible that the Riffs would rebuild their boats; but, if these were again destroyed, they might see that the Government was in earnest and gradually desist from their malpractices. One of the Moorish steamers was shortly proceeding to England for repairs. It seemed to me a good opportunity to have her armed with some light guns, Maxims or others, and then utilize her as a patrol-boat. If nothing were done by the Moorish Government it was possible that some other Governments might be driven to guarding the coast, and it would be well to avoid this measure being taken.

Mohamed Lebady said he quite agreed with what I said, and would convey my observations to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



No. 119.

*Foreign Office to Board of Trade.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 16, 1896.

I LAID before the Marquess of Salisbury your letter of the 8th instant relating to the drowning of two of the crew of the steam-ship "Gallina" off the coast of Morocco, and I am directed by his Lordship to say, for the information of the Board of Trade, that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier will be instructed to report on this matter.

In its present phase, it hardly appears that the case is one on which to base a representation to the Moorish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

---

No. 120.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 19, 1896.

I LAID before the Marquess of Salisbury your letter of the 8th instant forwarding a despatch from the Governor of Gibraltar, which inclosed a Petition for compensation from the master and crew of the "Jeven Enrique" on account of the alleged piratical attack made by Riffians on that vessel.

I am directed by his Lordship to say that he concurs generally in the reply which Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies proposes to return to this application, but as the case seems so little worthy of support, he would suggest the omission of any reference to a claim upon the Moorish Government.

With regard to the course of procedure which would be open to the claimants, I am to point out that it is stipulated by Article IX of the General Treaty between this country and Morocco of the 9th December, 1856, that "All criminal cases and complaints, and all civil differences, disputes, or causes of litigation arising between British subjects and subjects of the Moorish Government, shall be adjusted in the following manner: If the plaintiff be a British subject and the defendant a Moorish subject, the Governor of the town or district, or the Cadi, according as the case may appertain to their respective Courts, shall alone judge the case, the British subject making his appeal to the Governor or Cadi through the British Consul-General, Consul, or his deputy, who will have a right to be present in the Court during the whole trial of the case." It would therefore seem to be before the native Court that the Moorish subject should in the present instance be proceeded against, unless the defendant elects to submit himself to the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Consular Court under the terms of the Morocco Order in Council of 1889.

I inclose a copy of a further despatch on the subject which has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier since the date of your letter under reply.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

---

No. 121.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received December* 21.)

(No. 139.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 10, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 97 of the 11th August, I have the honour to report that renewed orders having been sent by the Grand Vizier to the Kaïds in the Saffi district, instructing them to send down to the coast persons within their several jurisdictions against whom British merchants had claims, Mr. Consul Maclean proceeded some little time ago to Saffi to assist in procuring a settlement of the

* No. 117.

numerous pending cases. I regret to say that although Mr. Maclean received every assistance from the local authorities at Saffi the Kaïds have practically received no Vizirial instructions, and, hitherto, have not permitted a single debtor to present himself at the coast town. I have consequently addressed a further communication to the Vizier, informing him of the indifference shown by the provincial Governors to orders from the central authority, and requesting him to issue stringent and urgent instructions, which may lead to some attention being paid to the wishes of the Government.

If this step produces no effect, I propose to instruct Mr. Maclean to return at once to Daralbaida, as a prolonged stay at Saffi awaiting the pleasure of the Kaïds is not desirable, and, moreover, entails unnecessary expense.

I trust that the Grand Vizier will dispatch some official from Court who will personally see that his orders are promptly executed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 122.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 140.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 14, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 130 of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Mr. Vice-Consul Forde informs me that there appears to have been an attempt at Laraiche to sell a slave by public auction, but that on his representation to the Governor the sale was stopped. Mr. Forde adds that the slaves, male and female, of the late Governor of Laraiche were sold by orders of the Sultan, but the sale took place inside the house of the Governor, and only a limited number of the chief inhabitants were present.

At Saffi there was also an attempt at a public sale, but on the representations of Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot the sale was stopped, and the auctioneer imprisoned. The Governor issued orders to all auctioneers that they must sell slaves only in private places, and that in future any one who sold slaves otherwise than privately would be severely punished. Mr. Hunot adds the following observations :—

"I regret to say that these steps will in nowise prevent the vile Traffic of Slaves which is carried on here with the approbation of the authorities, who continue to receive the tax of 2½ per cent. from the seller and 2½ per cent. from the buyer on the value of each creature sold."

There do not appear to have been any public sales of slaves in any other of the coast towns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 123.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 141. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 14, 1896.

THE Austrian Minister inquired of me lately whether there was any truth in the report that an English Company had obtained a trading and mining monopoly in the Sus district, and I communicated to Count Hohenwart all that I knew on the subject, and told him that my information was derived solely from what had appeared in a London newspaper. I added that I was sure that the Sultan had not approved such concession, if one had been granted by the "Chiefs of Sus;" and in any case no application for His Majesty's sanction had passed through this Legation. It was rumoured, I added, that a certain Abdulkerim Bey, whose real name was Geylen, and who was, I believed, an Austrian subject, was a moving spirit in the affair, and I gave Count Hohenwart some information in regard to the antecedents of that individual.

Count Hohenwart said that the German Legation had been preoccupied with the rumoured concession, and that a certain number of cypher telegrams had been exchanged



between Berlin and Tangier on the subject. I said that I regretted that the German Chargé d'Affaires had not applied to me in regard to the question, as I could probably have removed some misapprehension which existed in respect to the project.

I learn from Court that the French Agent there and also the Grand Vizier have been making inquiries in regard to the report, and that the former is sceptical that the scheme has received no encouragement or support from this Legation.

The Vizier had heard that some Europeans had landed in the Wad Nun district, and said that he intended to communicate with me on the matter. I have not been able to obtain any definite news in regard to such disembarcation, but inquiries are still being made. If I receive any communication from the Vizier, I will report further to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 124.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 143.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 17, 1896.

THE body of a German merchant here, M. Haessner, was discovered early this morning outside the gates of the Citadel with several wounds inflicted upon it, and the watch and chain of the deceased missing, having evidently been torn violently away from the pocket. There were no traces of blood where the body was found, and it is supposed that the murder had taken place elsewhere, and the body transported to where it was discovered.

M. Haessner, a man who was held in high respect by all classes of the community, both Christian and Mussulman, had been dining at his brother's house situated outside of the city walls, and left at 10 P.M. to return to his own house, which was in the town. On the way he must have been attacked by some persons who fell upon him from behind, as I am informed, by one of the doctors who made the *post-mortem* examination, that all the blows must have been struck from behind by a long sharp weapon.

The German Minister, who arrived only the day before, informs me that he considers some of the assailants were Moors, and he bases the supposition on the ground that only a few nights previously two Jews had been stopped and robbed in the same quarter by a band of men, the leader of whom spoke bad Spanish and was attired as a Moslem. On the other hand, the general belief is that the assailants were probably Spaniards, as the circumstances attending the murder would show that the murderers were expert in the use of knives, weapons which are not generally used by Moors, and which are the usual arm of Spaniards. Moreover, it is considered improbable that Moors would have ventured on attacking a well-known European, and would scarcely have taken the precaution of transporting the body to another place.

Of late there have been a few cases of highway robbery near the town by men attired in "jalabs," the outer garment of Moors, but which is not unfrequently worn by Spaniards when desirous of concealing their nationality, and which by enabling the hood to be thrown over the face, renders identification difficult.

Among the numerous Spanish colony here there are many very bad characters, who would not be unlikely to continue the avocations on account of which they had to fly their own country.

Baron Schenck is at present consulting with the Moorish authorities as to the steps to be taken to discover the culprits, and is yet unable to state what action his Government is likely to take in the matter.

This regrettable incident is another proof of the need of a police force of some kind here, not only for the prevention, but also for the detection, of crime.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 125.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 123.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 30, 1895.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 139 of the 10th instant, and I approve the communication which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier with regard to the claims of British merchants against natives in the district of Saffi.

I also approve your intention to instruct Consul Maclean to return to Dar-al-Baida should the representations which you have made to the Grand Vizier produce no effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.